

# PRESS INFORMATION



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## THE STARS COME OUT FOR CHRISTMAS . . .

- EASTENDERS MONA AND TOMMY TAKE OFF FOR A CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS
- EAST 17 GIVE THEIR SEASONAL LOWDOWN
- DON GIOVANNI IS LIVE FROM THE MET
- DIRK BOGARDE AND DIANA RIGG IN THE SNOW QUEEN
- AND ARTHUR ASKS SHOULD CHRISTMAS BE ABOLISHED?

WEEK 51/52 DECEMBER 17 - 31 1994

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# **c**ontents



Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy New  
Year.

**1-24 Radio Press Information Week 51**  
**Saturday 17 to Friday 23 December**

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**25-71 Radio Press Information Week 52**  
**Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24 to New Year's Eve**  
**31 December**

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**Plus Six Special Christmas Features:**  
**Caribbean Christmas: 'EastEnders' Mona Hammond and**  
**Tommy Eytel relive their Caribbean memories**

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**Yule Never Believe This! Ted Harrison Explodes Those**  
**Christmas Myths**

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**Alan Green's Footballing Christmas**

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**Sir Dirk Bogarde's Christmas Tale**

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**Ken Bruce and Sarah Kennedy's Tips for Surviving**  
**Christmas:**

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**1**  
**c**ontents



# highlights



## Cover story Week 51/52

Mona Hammond and Tommy Eytle take time off from 'EastEnders' to play their selection of Christmas music with a Caribbean flavour on Boxing Day on Radio 2.

- 9 **The Top 100 Songs of all Time:** throughout the day
- 19 **The Evening Session Christmas Pop Quiz:** Sarah Cracknell, Jarvis Cocker and Miles Hunt pit their wits
- 19 **Soundbite:** Danny Kelly looks at Christmas records
- 22 **John Peel's Festive Fifty:** based on the votes of John's listeners



- 1 **Tony Bennett:** the American star in concert
- 1 **The Real Glenn Miller Story:** Charles Dance plays the bandleader
- 1 **Glenn Miller Anniversary Concert:** with the BBC Big Band
- 22 **Gloria Hunniford's Christmas Concert:** with special guests



- 7 **Christmas Around Europe:** a taste of European festive traditions
- 9 **Philharmonia-Beethoven Cycle:** conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt
- 17 **Monument:** Prix Italia winning tribute to London
- 22 **How the Angels Fell:** tracing the changing role of angels



- 8 **Mum, I've Got Something to Tell You:** telling parents you're gay
- 18 **Playing With Dracula:** Maureen O'Brien and Nikolas Grace vamp it up in a scary black comedy
- 20 **For A Son:** David Horovitch stars in historical Spanish farce
- 20 **Canteen Ladies:** life with the lasses of a Sheffield supermarket canteen



- 12 **The Magazine:** Chris Choi presents features, 'phone-ins and topical discussion.
- 12 **Sportstrack:** 1985: a sporting year?
- 21 **Arthur Smith on the Floor:** should Christmas be abolished?



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**More details Inside**

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**Picture Shows:  
Glenn Miller.  
(c)BBC**



## **The Real Glenn Miller Story**

**Saturday, December 17 at 6.03pm on Radio 2**

Glenn Miller, the internationally famous band leader who disappeared on a short flight between Bedford and Paris on December 15, 1944, is the subject of this documentary introduced by Charles Dance.



**More details Inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture Shows:  
King's College  
Choir.**

**Photo credit:  
Eaden Lilley  
Photography.  
(c) King's  
College,  
Cambridge.**



## **Christmas Around Europe**

**Sunday, December 18 at 8.00am on Radio 3**

The European Broadcasting Union celebrates Christmas with a day-long sequence in which 14 different countries offer a taste of their own Christmas traditions. Britain's contribution from the King's College Choir comes live from Cambridge at 7.00pm.

**More details Inside**

**BBC RADIO**

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**Picture shows:  
Graham Seed  
and Alison  
Dowling.  
(c) BBC.**



## **The Archers**

**Monday, December 19 at 7.05pm on Radio 4**

Nigel (Graham Seed) and Elizabeth Pargetter (Alison Dowling) prepare for their first Christmas together at Lower Loxley.

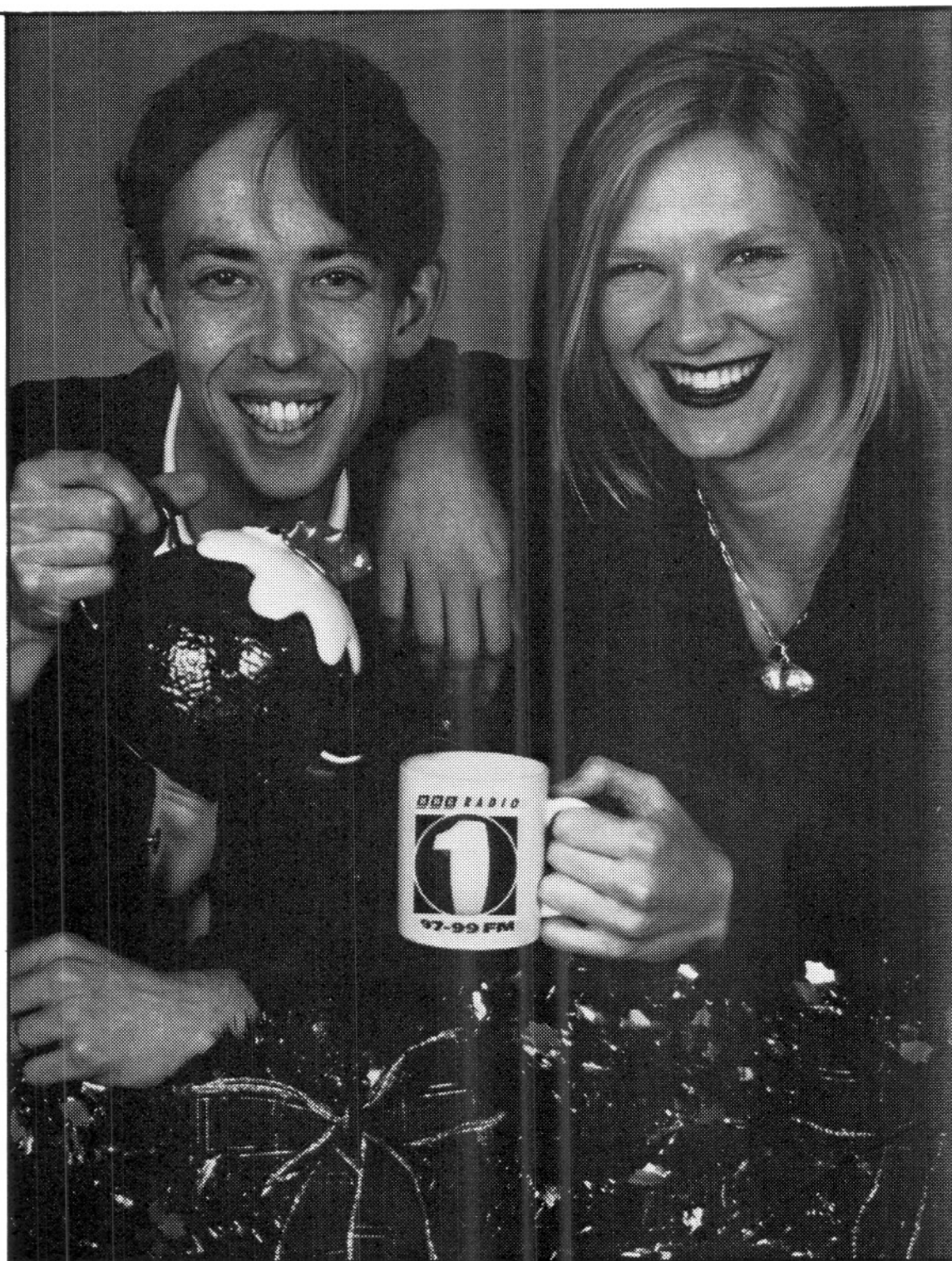


**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture shows:  
Steve Lamacq  
and Jo Whiley.  
Photo Credit:  
Nicky Johnston.  
(c) BBC.**



## **The Evening Session Christmas Quiz**

**Thursday, December 22 at 7.00pm on Radio 1FM**

Steve Lamacq and Jo Whiley are joined by musicians Sarah Cracknell, Miles Hunt and Jarvis Cocker for the 'Evening Session Christmas Quiz'.

**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture Shows:**  
An illustration  
of an angel by  
Jane Ray.  
(c) Roger  
La Borde.



## **How The Angels Fell**

Friday, December 23 at 10.45pm on Radio 3

David Goodman traces angelic history from the Celestial Civil Service to the top of the Christmas Tree, showing how they lost power as an inspirational force and have recently regained it.



# *the week ahead*



**BBC Radio  
Light  
Entertainment  
provides  
quizzes, panel  
games,  
scripted  
comedy and  
series across  
the networks  
to keep your  
spirits up.**

**This Light  
Entertainment  
page runs  
from Saturday  
17 to Thursday  
22 December.**

**Compiled by  
Stephanie  
Hardwick.**

## **SATURDAY**

### **R4 The News Quiz of the Year 12.25-12.55**

In the first of two programmes for the Christmas season Barry Took takes a look back over the past two series of 'The News Quiz' to choose his favourite stories of 1994 which tested the wits of Alan Coren, Richard Ingrams and guests.

### **R2 The Golden Days of Radio 7.03-7.33pm**

Robin Boyle introduces more classic comedy from the BBC's Radio Archives with a Fifties edition of 'Much Binding in the Marsh'. Written by and starring, Richard Murdoch and Kenneth Horne, the cast includes Sam Costa, Maurice Denham, Diana Morrison, Barbara Leigh and Philip Slessor.

## **MONDAY**

### **R4 Screenplay 12.25-12.55pm**

'Screenplay' continues with Iain Johnstone hosting Radio 4's movie quiz. This week team captains Dick Vosburgh and Stephen Tompkinson are joined by Barry Cryer and Sylvia Syms to test their wit and wisdom on film trivia, music and dialogue.

### **R1 Shuttleworth's Showtime 9.00-10.00pm**

John Shuttleworth offers tips to pop stars about songs that are sure to make the charts - if only someone would record them.

## **TUESDAY**

### **R4 Gush 6.30-7.00pm**

Ian Hislop and Nick Newman's epic mini-saga continues. A compromising photograph of Prince Saudi of Arabia (the oil sheik who is holding the rest of the world to ransom) and Lady Arabella (the swinging fashion designer and ex-fiancee of Cravate and ex-wife of Pomeroy) is found and it could save the world from war. Unfortunately it's in the hands of Charles de Vere of the Foreign Office. Martin Jarvis stars as Cravate, Julian Dutton is the Prince, Felicity Montagu is Arabella and Jonathan Coy is de Vere.

## **THURSDAY**

### **R4 Harry Hill's Fruit Corner 6.30-7.00pm**

Ronnie Corbett is the special guest in this, the last of the current series of 'Harry Hill's Fruit Corner', where there's more family fun with Harry Hill and the gang.

### **R4 Rhubarb and Custard 8.00-8.45pm**

Robert Robinson investigates the rise and rise of unrehearsed ad-lib radio. He looks at the days when chat shows were scripted and discussions were banned for fear of over-exciting the listeners with certain topics, to current 'phone-ins where you can ring to have your say, or quite simply be insulted by the presenter.

**For further information contact Network Radio Publicity Officers on Radios 1,2, and 4.**



# R A D I O S P O R T

**BBC RADIO**



## **SATURDAY**

### **Sport on Five 1.05-6.00pm**

Ian Payne hosts live commentary from a top FA Premiership match in a full afternoon of sport. He will also have rugby union action from the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup, Peter Bromley is at Ascot and there will be reports from four other meetings. England play Queensland in the build-up to the second Test as they continue their tour of Australia. and 'Sport on Five' brings up to the minute reports.

## **SUNDAY**

### **Sunday Sport 3.05-6.00pm**

Scotland travel to Greece for their European Championship qualifier, and Marcus Buckland will also have new of the rest of the afternoon's football action, including coverage from West Brom's Endsleigh clash with Luton. Rugby league coverage comes from the 3rd round of the Regal Trophy.

## **MONDAY**

### **The Monday Match 8.00-10.00pm**

Eleanor Oldroyd hosts live coverage of Southampton's FA Premiership match against Aston Villa at the Dell.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Trevor Brooking's Football Night 7.35-10.00pm**

Commentary and coverage from the top FA Premiership clash between Newcastle and Everton.

**This Sports  
Page runs  
from Saturday  
17 to  
Wednesday  
21 December.**

**Compiled by  
Mike Day and  
Julia Lupton.**

**For further information contact Mike Day BBC Radio Sport Publicity on 071-765 2628**





# *the week ahead*

This page was  
compiled by  
Karen Rose  
and runs from  
Saturday 17-  
Friday 23  
December.

## **SATURDAY**

### **The Chicago Conspiracy Trial 7.50-9.59pm**

This drama-documentary, produced and directed by Martin Jenkins in conjunction with LA Theatre Works, won the New York International Radio festival Gold Medal for Best Drama Special. It focuses on the violent demonstration that took place on the streets of Chicago in August 1968 which lead to one of the most compelling and bizarre trials in legal history. The voices of Thomas Foran, William Kunstler, David Dellinger, Tom Hayden, Bobby Seale, Allen Ginsberg and Studs Terkel feature.

### **R4 Two Way Cut 11.30-11.59pm**

Donoghue, (Crawford Logan) has enough evidence to arrest Stein but he doesn't appear to be in the city. Louise wants to make a statement about the murder, and Elka Williams is going to tell Mrs Salisbury about her daughter's illness.

## **SUNDAY**

### **Children's Radio 4: The Wizard of Oz 6.30-7.00pm**

Dorothy and her friends must kill the Wicked Witch of the West, (Maureen Lipman) for Oz to grant them their wishes. But the witch is a deadly enemy.

## **MONDAY**

### **R4 A Child of Consequence 7.45-9.15pm**

Owen Teale plays Derrick and Melanie Walters, Rhiannon in Nicholas McNerny's fourth radio play about the war in the former Yugoslavia, which was written and recorded at a point when the ceasefire in Sarajevo seemed slightly more stable than it does now.

## **TUESDAY**

### **R4 A Scent of Myrrh 2.02-2.30pm**

Toby Daniels, Hedli Niklaus, Leon Tanner and Roger Hume feature in Elizabeth Woodfield's first radio play about a young boy's determination to discover the truth about an ancient legend. Do oxen go down on their knees at midnight on Christmas Eve in adoration of the birth of the Saviour?

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **R4 Playing with Dracula 2.00-2.45pm**

Nikolas Grace, Maureen O'Brien and Siriol Jenkins feature in Nick Fisher's delightfully scary black comedy about a group of amateur film-buffs who make their own Hammer Horror with Count Dracula as the central character.

## **THURSDAY**

### **R4 For a Son 2.02-3.00pm**

Geoffrey Palmer, David Horovitch, Barbara Flynn, James Grout and Philip Jackson star in Rex Harrison's son, Carey Harrison's, historical comedy/farce, loosely based on historical fact and set in Spain in the 11th century.

### **R4 Salem's Lot 11.00-11.30pm**

As Susan (Theresa Gallagher) and Ben's (Stuart Milligan) relationship deepens, Salem's Lot is in confusion. Danny Glick's death is still a riddle that can't be solved, and the search goes on for his missing brother, Ralphie. Barlow, (Doug Bradley) the elusive new owner of the Marsten House, makes an appearance at Danny Glick's graveside and convinces Ryerson, the gravedigger, that Danny needs to be given his freedom...

## **FRIDAY**

### **R4 Kidnapped : Across the Forth 2.02-3.00pm**

David Balfour (David Rintoul) and Alan Breck (Paul Young) have reached the outskirts of Edinburgh and David now seeks the help of the lawyer Rankeillor in claiming his rightful inheritance and arranging for Alan's safe passage to France.

drama



# telling tales

This serials  
and readings  
page runs  
from Sunday  
18 to Friday  
23  
December  
and was  
compiled by  
Stephanie  
Hardwick.

## readings

### SUNDAY

#### **R4 Reading Aloud: This Boy's Life** 8.30-9.00pm FM Only

Tobias Wolff reads from his successful memoirs, depicting coming of age with an extended family in small-town America and one memorable weekend at Christmas time in particular.

### MONDAY

#### **R4 Children's Radio 4: Charlotte's Web** 10.15-10.30am LW only

William Hootkins reads this seven part adaptation of E B White's children's favourite. When Fern adopts a runt and calls him Wilbur she nurses him back to health and thinks she has saved his life. But Zuckerman the farmer has other plans for the fat little piglet! Charlotte the grey spider comes up with an ingenious plan to save Wilbur from becoming the bacon on the Christmas table, but, although Wilbur is saved nature takes its course and Charlotte cannot prevent her own death

#### **R4 Short Story: A Festive Vocation** 4.45-5.00pm

When Terry gets a job in a posh department store as a temporary Santa, giving out gifts to children who already have too much, he becomes disgusted with Christmas. But then something happens to make him change his mind. B J Hogg reads Eddi McVeigh's short story.

#### **R3 Utopia and Other Places** 8.55-9.15pm

Director of London's Royal National Theatre, Richard Eyre reads four excerpts from his recently published 'Utopia and Other Places' on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday this week. Eyre's readings include moving and frank accounts of his childhood in Dorset, his family and also include snapshots from his life in the theatre.

#### **R4 Book at Bedtime: Brazzaville Beach** 10.45-11.00pm

Fiona Shaw continues reading William Boyd's novel 'Brazzaville Beach'.

### TUESDAY

#### **R4 Short Story: A Jeely Piece** 4.45-5.00pm

Two life-long friends Rhona and Mollie reminisce about their youth. Mollie recollects a magical evening they spent together in Rhona's family summerhouse, an evening which included a secret brief flirtation with Rhona's father. Eileen McCallum reads novelist Candida McWilliam's short story.

### WEDNESDAY

#### **R4 Short Story: The Voice of Authority** 4.45-5.00pm

Dina Mehta's story, read by Vayu Naidu, tells the tale of Una, whose married life has been dominated by her mother-in-law. Uma was never good enough to marry her son and when their only child turns out to be a girl, it's the final insult. But Jyoti grows up to be both beautiful and intelligent and Uma is determined that her daughter will not succumb to the tyranny of domesticity.

### THURSDAY

#### **R4 Short Story: A Spirit Elopement** 4.45-5.00pm

A third person is not a recommended addition to any honeymoon, in Clotilde Graves's tale, especially when that third person is a wraithful figure conjured by the dreams of your brand new husband. Dabbling in the occult before he met his wife, Vavasour is unable to rid his marital home of the spirit he so enthusiastically communed with before his marriage and who now appears at every inconvenient moment in answer to his thoughts. How can they rid themselves of Katie? Vavasour's new wife has an unusual and other-worldly solution, but one which Vavasour - and Katie - can do nothing about.

### FRIDAY

#### **R4 Short Story: Mole Cooks his Goose** 4.45-5.00pm

Specially written for Radio 4, and picking up from where 'The Wilderness Years' of Adrian Mole left off, Nicholas Barnes reads Sue Townsend's 'Mole Cooks his Goose'.



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The memorable hits of  
Tony Bennett.

A celebration of Glenn  
Miller's career,  
featuring Charles  
Dance as the  
bandleader.

Rare Glenn Miller  
performances re-  
created by the BBC Big  
Band in Bedford.

2.00-5.00pm

### **Johnnie Walker** (Including In Concert at 4.00pm)

Harmonic pop babes Eternal, currently riding high on the success of the single 'Oh, Baby I..' are the featured band on 'In Concert' this afternoon.

**Presenter/Johnnie Walker, Producer/Tony Wilson**

5.03-6.00pm

### **Tony Bennett In Concert**

American singing star Tony Bennett, best-known for his hit 'I Left my Heart in San Francisco', performs in concert accompanied by the Ralph Sharon Trio.

The son of Italian immigrant parents, Tony Bennett had his first major success with 'Because of You' in 1951, followed by 'Stranger in Paradise' in 1953. Other hits associated with Tony include 'Firefly', 'Jeepers Creepers', 'I Wanna Be Around' and 'Who Can I Turn To'. In this concert recorded at Her Majesty's Theatre in London, he performs a selection of the many hits he has had in his career and numbers from his latest album.

**Producer/Graham Pass**

6.03-7.00pm

### **The Real Glenn Miller Story**

Charles Dance stars as Glenn Miller in this drama documentary which looks at the career of the great band leader who disappeared 50 years ago this month.

On 15 December 1944, Major Glenn Miller boarded a single-engined aircraft at Twinwoods Farm aerodrome just outside Bedford, and set off on a short flight to Paris. As he got on board he was heard to say: "Where the hell are the parachutes?" His fellow traveller Colonel Baesell replied: "What's the matter Miller - do you want to live forever?" The aircraft was never seen again and Miller and his fellow passengers were officially reported 'missing in flight'.

Charles Dance plays a man who was nothing like the character portrayed by James Stewart in the film 'The Glenn Miller Story'. According to Bob Sinfield, the writer of this programme, the real Miller was a hard driving, hard headed, ambitious businessman who knew exactly what he wanted and how to get it.

Charles Dance's film and TV appearances include 'Last Action Hero', 'White Mischief', 'For Your Eyes Only', 'Aliens III', 'The Jewel in the Crown', 'First Born' and 'Out of the Shadows'.

**Producer/Graham Pass**

7.33-9.30pm

### **Glenn Miller Anniversary Concert**

Ken Bruce introduces the BBC Big Band, accompanied by vocal group Quintessence, who recreate note for note many of the rarely heard 'live' Glenn Miller arrangements in a special anniversary concert from the Bedford Corn Exchange.

Glenn Miller came to Britain in June 1944 with the American band of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, the orchestra that he formed when he gave up his celebrated civilian band in 1942 and joined the Army. Throughout most of its stay in Britain, the Orchestra was based at Bedford to escape the relentless buzz bomb attacks on London.

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**BBC RADIO**



**Leslie Forbes on Delhi's rich cultural and culinary traditions.**

**Bernard Haitink on the history of the Royal Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra.**

**Christian Badea conducts Verdi's masterpiece.**

**Glenn Miller Anniversary Concert 7.33-9.30pm (continued)**

Miller and his band undertook a punishing schedule of appearances at army bases around the country and BBC broadcasts, many of which were recorded at the Bedford Corn Exchange.

**Presenter/Ken Bruce, Producer/Graham Pass**

**1.02-1.20pm**

**Table Talk: The Indian Spice Trail**

Leslie Forbes's travels to Delhi in the penultimate programme of 'The Indian Spice Trail' in her continuing quest to find links in the chain of spices connecting India to its ancient trading partners in the Mediterranean.

She describes the city as "a multi-layered paratha of culinary influences, to which each new invasion or wave of immigrants added another layer". Delhi's rich concoction of cultural and culinary influences came from the Northwest Frontier Province, from the original trading caste who eschewed the use of onion and garlic, from the Muslims, who did everything from sweeping the streets to ruling them, and from the local Hindu administrative class. And finally from the new arrivals, people from India's granary, the Punjab, who arrived after Partition.

**Presenter/Leslie Forbes, Producer/Matt Thompson**

**3.00-5.00pm**

**Vintage Years with David Mellor**

*Repeat Broadcast*

This week, another chance to hear David Mellor talk to the distinguished Dutch conductor, Sir Bernard Haitink.

Interviewed in the Music Director's cramped flat in the Royal Opera House - where Sir Thomas Beecham used to sleep - Sir Bernard explains the fascinating history of the Royal Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, which is reputed to produce the most sheerly beautiful sound of any orchestra in the world.

Sir Bernard grew up with the Concertgebouw as a boy in Amsterdam before and after the Second World War, not realising that he would later conduct them for over a quarter of a century from 1961.

As a leading maestro himself, his discussion and choice of Concertgebouw recordings of the work of great conductors like Willem Mengelberg, Eduard van Beinum, Otto Klemperer and Erich Kleiber brings special insights as he heard all of them conduct in person.

**Presenter/David Mellor, Producer/Nick Morgan**

**6.30-9.35pm**

**Live from the Met: 'Rigoletto'**

'Rigoletto', one of Verdi's greatest operas, is this week's broadcast live from the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Juan Pons is Rigoletto, the melancholy hunchback court jester; Sumi Jo, his ill-fated daughter Gilda; and Ramon Vargas the ruthless Duke of Mantua. The New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra is conducted by Christian Badea. During the first interval at 7.30pm, Will Crutchfield explores the concept of 'Voice'. The second interval feature at 8.25pm is the 'Opera Quiz', with Edward Danes firing the questions.

**Producer/Clive Bennett**

BBC RADIO



Stephen Johnson  
assesses the evidence  
surrounding  
Tchaikovsky's death.

9.35-10.20pm

### **Pride or Prejudice?**

First it was Mozart versus Salieri: now it's the alumni of the St Petersburg School of Jurisprudence versus Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

In this 45-minute documentary, writer and broadcaster Stephen Johnson looks at the strange case of Tchaikovsky's death.

Official Soviet musicology always maintained that Tchaikovsky died suddenly in a cholera epidemic at the peak of his fame. But in the late Seventies, a sensational claim was made that in fact he had been ordered to commit suicide by his erstwhile schoolmates at the most prestigious educational establishment in Tsarist Russia, to prevent news of his homosexuality reaching the ears of the Tsar.

The suicide scenario was the claim of emigre Russian musicologist Alexandra Orlova, who had worked at the Tchaikovsky Museum at Klin outside Moscow. It was supported by Tchaikovsky's biographer, David Brown, and the authoritative Sixth Edition of the 'Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians' followed suit. The matter seemed settled.

But was it? In 'Pride or Prejudice?' Stephen Johnson examines the evidence for and against the suicide scenario, including a rare interview with Madame Orlova.

The result is a fascinating reappraisal of the supposedly reactionary "twilight of the Romanovs" and of the psychological makeup of one of the world's most popular composers.

The programme was originally broadcast on 5th November 1993 as part of Radio 3's Tchaikovsky evening in honour of his centenary, and it will be followed by a short selection of songs from Tchaikovsky's last set, Op.73, originally recorded for the same evening.

**Producer/Nick Morgan**

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12.25-12.55pm

### **News Quiz of the Year**

Barry Took looks back at the previous two series of 'The News Quiz' to pick out the highlights from one of radio's funniest programmes. Contributors include Alan Coren (voted the wittiest person in Britain by Radio 4 listeners), Richard Ingrams, Roy Hattersley, Tony Hawkes and Germaine Greer.

**Presenter/Barry Took, Producer/Aled Evans**

2.30-4.00pm

### **Playhouse: The Courts of the Morning**

*Repeat Broadcast*

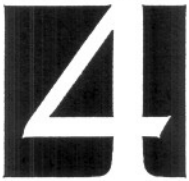
John Buchan's adventure story, set in the fictitious South American republic of Olifa, stars Ian McDiarmid as Castor, the powerful president of the mining company, Andrew Wardlaw as Sir Archibald Roylance and Sandy Neilson as Lord Clanroyden, the archetypal Buchan heroes. Janet, Archie's spirited new bride, is played by Fiona Francis.

**Director/Patrick Rayner, BBC Scotland**

Ian McDiarmid in a  
dramatisation of John  
Buchan's adventure  
tale set in South  
America.



BBC RADIO



The unemployed as a historical scapegoat group.

4.02-4.30pm

### **Scapegoats**

*Last in the Series*

Hugh Pryor-Jones closes the series exploring historical scapegoats with a look at the workless.

The word 'unemployed' was a late 19th century invention but the state, from parishes to the National Assistance Board, has always been uncomfortable in the presence of those who would like to work but cannot find any. Some of the scapegoat groups have used official hostility to promote solidarity and self-definition, particularly the unemployed, as expressed in the views of a Thirties hunger marcher.

**Presenter/Hugh Pryor-Jones, Producer/Forsyth Productions, BBC Bristol**

Best science books of the year.

4.30-5.00pm

### **Science Now**

Peter Evans and guests provide a few Christmas present ideas as they sift through this year's science books, and choose their favourites.

**Presenter/Peter Evans, Producer/Paula McGrath**

A passion for old gramophones.

5.40-5.50pm

### **Personal Obsessions**

*New Series*

'Personal Obsessions' returns with four more people who are passionate collectors of different objects. In the first programme, Michael Bennett-Levy describes his passion for the sight and sounds of old gramophones.

**Presenter/Tony Currie, Producer/Michael Shaw**

The unique voice of folk singer June Tabor.

7.20-7.50pm

### **Kaleidoscope Feature**

Elvis Costello and Richard Thompson join Tom Morris to sing the praises of folk singer June Tabor in this 'Kaleidoscope' special.

June Tabor is currently riding high on the British folk scene thanks to her celebrated tenor voice and melodic arrangements. Thompson and Costello are just two of the songwriters who are queuing up to compose for her unique sound. She talks to Tom Morris about her success, and gives listeners the chance to hear her distinctive voice as she performs a selection of songs.

**Presenter/Tom Morris, Producer/Adrian Washbourne**

The 1968 Chicago Conspiracy Trial that made legal and social history.

7.50-9.59pm

### **The Chicago Conspiracy Trial**

*Repeat Broadcast*

During the turbulent times of 1968, some people believed that the old order would be overthrown. The riots in Paris in May sent a shock wave through the establishments of many countries, not least in the USA. In August of that year the Democrats held their National Convention in Chicago and Mayor Daley, one of the old time city bosses, was determined that the growing number of young protesters would get short shrift in his city. The streets erupted into a violent confrontation between the police and demonstrators.

**BBC RADIO**



**The Chicago Conspiracy Trial 7.50-9.59pm (continued)**

One of the most bizarre and compelling trials in American legal history followed a year later when eight people were charged with crossing a state line with intent to start a riot. The defendants included the black activist, Bobby Seale, who ended up being tied to his chair in the courtroom, Tom Hayden, now a leading right-wing politician and ex-husband of Jane Fonda, and the late Abbie Hoffman, founder of the Youth International Peace Movement.

Tonight's programme combines dramatised excerpts from the court transcripts and specially recorded interviews with many of those who actively participated in the trial.

The cast includes many distinguished Chicago-based actors, among them George Murdoch as the judge. John Theocharis recorded the interviews and Peter Goodchild wrote this drama-documentary. The production was first broadcast in 1993.

**Director/Martin Jenkins**

**10.15-10.45pm**

**Road to Redemption**

Remember Green Shield stamps? Nick Baker does. He was one of many licking their way to getting matching saucepan sets, bathroom scales and gold watches, and in 'Road to Redemption' he recalls the retailing battles of the high street in the days before discounts, air miles and loyalty points.

**Presenter/Nick Baker, Producer/Nicky Barranger**

Nick Baker on that retailing wonder Green Shield stamps.

**BBC RADIO**



**1.05-6.00pm**

**Sport on Five**

Ian Payne hosts live coverage from a top FA Premiership game in a full league programme in England, while rugby union action comes from the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup.

Racing commentator Peter Bromley is at Ascot for commentary on two races, and also on the afternoon's agenda is cricket, with England playing Queensland in the build up to the second Test. Comprehensive reports on golf, showjumping and basketball also feature.

**Presenter/Ian Payne, Producer/Graham Reid Davies**

Peter Bromley at Ascot.

**BBC RADIO**



Peter Hook on everything from synth pop to multimedia extravaganzas.

7.00-8.00pm

### **The Art Of Noise**

*Last in Series*

New Order frontman, Peter Hook, enters the frame for the last in Radio 1's documentary on technology and modern music.

Peter takes up the story in the late Seventies and details the developments from synth-pop to the multimedia extravaganzas of today. Pioneers of the celebrated techo-sounds of the Eighties, such as Andy McClusky of OMD and members of The Human League, join Peter, along with many of the most technologically advanced music producers of today.

**Presenter/Peter Hook, Producer/Wendy Pilmer**

R'n'B from Robert Ward.

10.00pm-1.00am

### **Andy Kershaw**

Andy Kershaw gets down to some Georgian R'n'B courtesy of guitarist Robert Ward, when he features a concert specially recorded at London's South Bank on his show tonight.

**Presenter/Andy Kershaw, Producer/Mike Hawkes**

**BBC RADIO**



The political and religious views of Cardinal Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow.

7.03-9.00am

### **Good Morning Sunday**

Don Maclean talks to Cardinal Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow, who is Britain's newest Roman Catholic Cardinal, and only the third Scottish Cardinal to have been created since the Reformation.

Cardinal Winning admits to having conservative views of the Catholic faith, but his politics are left-wing. He has championed the cause of the poor, the disabled and the homeless all his working life. He describes himself as "a wee bit middle of the road, a wee bit left and a wee bit right". He is quoted as saying "you can't be a Catholic and not a conservative." He is a stern defender of the Church's traditionalist views on abortion, contraception for teenage girls, women priests and Catholic schools.

Ordained at the age of 23, the Cardinal feels that being made a Cardinal was a great personal honour and national honour. He is the leader of one million Scottish Catholics and in 1975 he became the first Catholic to address the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

**Presenter/Don Maclean, Producer/Michael Wakelin, BBC North**

The sound of international tenors.

4.03-4.30

### **Festive Tenors**

Robin Gregory presents a panoply of tenors from around the world including Jan Kiepura from Poland, Rudolf Schock from Germany and Tino Rosso from France. There's also music from Placido Domingo, Webster Booth, Giuseppe Di Stefano, Joseph Schmidt and Carlo Bergonzi, and - adding a touch of glamour - Dagmar Koller and Montserrat Caballe.

**Presenter/Robin Gregory, Producer/Roger Bowman**



BBC RADIO



Literary and musical reflections on Christmas from George Bernard Shaw to Oscar Peterson.

10.03pm-midnight

### **Christmas Party: Radio 2 Arts Programme**

George Bernard Shaw, Sir John Betjeman, Laurie Lee and George Orwell are among the writers who have recorded their thoughts on Christmas. In tonight's 'Arts Programme', Richard Anthony Baker examines their findings with the help of John Marsh, Charlotte Green and Rosalyn Elvin. Also included are recordings from Sammy Cahn, Harry Connick Jnr, Joyce Grenfell, Oscar Peterson, Mel Tormé and Barbra Streisand.

**Presenter/Richard Anthony Baker, Producer/Stella Hanson**

BBC RADIO



Andrew Lyle and Anthony Burton introduces this a day long celebration of Christmas featuring everything from Slovak folk carols to baroque music and readings.

8.00am-11.30pm

### **Christmas Around Europe**

An all-day celebration of Christmas from the European Broadcasting Union, in which 14 different countries offer a taste of their own Christmas traditions.

The day reflects a wide diversity of styles and periods: from the ancient Christmas music of the Holy Land to Slovak folk carols, and from the traditional Sami music of Lapland to Spanish Flamenco.

More conventionally, there will be Baroque music from Belgium, France, Portugal and Italy; two rare early 20th century chamber works from Holland; a 19th century Christmas Cantata by the Danish composer Christoph Ernst Friedrich Weyse; and Messiaen's great organ-cycle for the Christmas season 'La Nativité du Seigneur', played in St Ludwig's Church, Saarbrücken, by Theo Brandmüller.

There will also be programmes spanning the centuries from Poland, the Czech Republic and from Germany, sung by the choir of Bach's own church, St Thomas's in Leipzig.

The British contribution will feature the Choir of King's College, live from Cambridge, singing a programme of sacred music by Tallis, Byrd and Parsons at 7.00pm.

Andrew Lyle in London introduces the first part of the day, and hands over to Anthony Burton at 1.00pm. Interspersed throughout the day will be Christmas readings by Imogen Stubbs and Robert Hardy.

**Producer/Lindsay Kemp, Managing Editor/Graham Dixon**

BBC RADIO



12.15-12.55pm

### **Desert Island Discs**

Gardener Penelope Hobhouse joins Sue Lawley this week to pick a bunch of tunes to take to the mythical island. Author of many authoritative gardening tomes herself, Penelope could well have some tips on cultivating a desert island.

**Presenter/Sue Lawley, Producer/Olivia Seligman**

5.30-5.50pm

### **Poetry Please!**

A seasonal selection of favourite Christmas poems and carols, including interviews with listeners about their choices and even some of their own readings.

**Presenter/Gareth Owen, Producer/Miv Beeby, BBC Bristol**

BBC RADIO



'Coming out': how do children tell their parents?

7.00-7.30pm

### Mum, I've Got Something to Tell You

How do you break the news to your parents that you are gay? Some people never get around to telling their mother, much less their father. Others go to excruciating lengths to choose the right time and place to break the news: should it be in the kitchen over the washing up, or after dinner in the lounge? Perhaps a neutral, public venue such as a restaurant would be best. Wherever it is, the moment is fraught with tension, and can end in tears - whether of pain, or relief.

In this montage programme, people from different backgrounds talk about the moment they first came out to their families, and explain the emotions leading up to and following the revelation. We also hear the point of view of parents and siblings, who talk about their feelings upon hearing the news and the affect the knowledge has had on them.

Producer/Nigel Acheson

Results of the 'Writer's Weekly' competition.

8.00-8.30pm LW Only

### Writer's Weekly

*Last in Series*

In the final programme in the series, Nick Baker announces the results of the 'Writer's Weekly' competition, in which listeners were asked to enter either a short story of no more than 2,300 words in length, or an autobiography or biography of no more than 750 words.

Presenter/Nick Baker, Producer/Claire Csonka, BBC Bristol

Dr Mary Archer on her research, chemistry and Lloyds.

10.45-11.15pm

### Eureka

Dr Mary Archer joins Barbara Myers to discuss her research in photochemistry, the appeal of chemistry itself, and her involvement with Lloyds of London in this week's 'Eureka'.

Presenter/Barbara Myers, Producer/Constance St Louis

BBC RADIO



Commentary on the Scotland v Greece game.

1.05-1.30pm

### Top Gear

Steve Berry presents the programme, in which Zog Ziegler decides how BMW's new compact measures up to the competition.

Presenter/Steve Berry, Producer/Mark Hellings

3.05-6.05pm

### Sunday Sport

Scotland travel to Greece for a European Championship qualifying game and Marcus Buckland hosts live commentary from the match. He also has coverage of the third round of rugby league's Regal Trophy, showjumping from the Olympia International Championships, basketball from the Budweiser League, golf from the Johnnie Walker World Championship and cricket from Australia and South Africa.

Presenter/Marcus Buckland, Producer/Sonja MacLaughlin

BBC RADIO



What will be number one in the top 100?

All day

## The Radio 1 Top 100 Songs of All Time

Radio 1FM has gathered an illustrious panel of music journalists and experts to produce the definitive list of the Top 100 songs of all time.

Sales charts put tracks like Whitney's 'I Will Always Love You' and Bryan Adams's 'Everything I Do (I Do it for You)' and, of course, Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' up there at the top of the all-time audit.

Listeners, on the other hand tend to select classics like 'Stairway to Heaven' by Led Zeppelin, Gerry Rafferty's 'Baker Street' and 'Careless Whisper' by George Michael when asked to nominate their all time favourites. But what will the experts choose? Maybe all of these, maybe none.

In the two weeks over Christmas, Radio 1 FM will play one of the hundred in every show, beginning on 'Steve Wright's Breakfast Show' today (19th December) at 6.00am. Then, on new Year's Day, the entire 100 will be run down in full.

**Presenters/Producers, Various.**

BBC RADIO



9.00-10.00am

## Composers of the Week: Moeran and Warlock

Composers Ernest "Jack" Moeran (1894-1950) and Philip Heseltine, "Peter Warlock", (1894-1930) were great friends and musical allies in the Twenties. In this centenary tribute, Paul Hindmarsh explores their friendship through some of their best music over the coming week.

**Presenter/Producer, Paul Hindmarsh**

Nikolaus Harnoncourt and the Philharmonia Orchestra perform Beethoven's Symphony Nos 1 and 3. Recorded at Symphony Hall, Birmingham this summer.

7.30-8.55pm

## Philharmonia: Beethoven Cycle

"Music should always affect people's lives. It has always been my conviction that music is not there to soothe people's nerves or to bring them relaxation but, rather, to open their eyes; to give them a good shaking, even to frighten them. If music cannot do this, then I don't play it."

These are the words of Maestro Nikolaus Harnoncourt, the Austrian cellist, conductor and specialist in early music, which sum up the purpose to which he has dedicated his life.

From 24 October to 13 November this year, Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra in a project never previously undertaken by a British orchestra - to rehearse and perform the complete symphonies of Beethoven along with his third piano concerto. With 29 rehearsals and 10 concerts - five in London's Royal Festival Hall and five in the Symphony Hall, Birmingham - it was a mammoth task.

This was the first time that Harnoncourt had worked with a British symphony orchestra, although his work is well known over here through his extensive recordings. His discs of the complete Beethoven symphonies with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe won a prestigious Gramophone Award.



BBC RADIO



**Philharmonia: Beethoven Cycle 7.30-8.55pm (continued)**

Now the five concerts given in Birmingham will be broadcast on Radio 3, starting tonight with Beethoven's Symphony Nos.1 and 3. The subsequent programmes will go out at 7.30-8.55pm on Wednesday, 21 December (Symphony nos 2 and 7), Friday, 23 December (Symphony nos 4 and 5), Monday, 26 December (Symphony nos 8 and 6) and finally at 7.30-9.20pm on Friday, 30 December (Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto, with soloist Till Fellner, and Symphony no.9). The great critical acclaim received by the concerts was a tribute to the project. Between the performances you can hear Anthony Sargent talking about the work performed as well as in conversation with the players and management of the Philharmonia, hearing the effect that this experience has had on them.

**Producer/Steve Long, Floating Earth, Managing Editor for Radio 3/Andrew Lyle**

Richard Eyre reads four excerpts from his acclaimed book.

8.55-9.15pm

**Utopia and Other Stories**

Richard Eyre, Director of London's Royal National Theatre and an eloquent spokesman for the arts in this country, reads four excerpts this week from his acclaimed book 'Utopia and Other Places'.

The book, first published in 1993, was described as "fascinating, sometimes funny and always moving" (Sunday Telegraph), making it ideal listening for the Christmas holiday season.

Full of remembrances of times past, these four 20-minute readings include Eyre's moving and frank account of his Dorset childhood, his parents and grandparents. They also include snapshots from his life in the theatre: ranging from his realisation that he was not a committed enough actor to the awesome challenge of being the third man to run Britain's National Theatre after Laurence Olivier and Peter Hall.

The readings follow the evening concerts on Radio 3 tonight, and on Tuesday, 20th at 10.00-10.20pm, Wednesday, 21st at 8.55-9.15pm and Friday, 23rd at 8.55-9.15pm.

**Producer/Michael Earley**

BBC RADIO



Victor Spinetti's selection of his favourite prose and poetry.

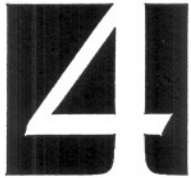
10.02-10.30am FM Only

**With Great Pleasure**

Actor, director and writer Victor Spinetti chooses his favourite pieces of prose and poetry. He was born above a fish and chip shop in Wales and started as a stand-up comedian on the piers before winning a Tony award for 'Oh What a Lovely War!' and going on to act on stage and screen with most of British entertainment's great names. His selections include A J Cronin's 'The Stars Look Down', which struck the adolescent Spinetti as the sexiest thing he'd ever read, as well as Aldous Huxley's 'Doors of Perception', a D H Lawrence poem and Jerome K Jerome's 'Three Men in a Boat'.

**Producer/Sara Davies, BBC Bristol**

**BBC RADIO**



EB White's classic children's story abridged in seven parts.

Drama about the Highlands' reaction to the invention of 'instant whisky'.

A week of celebrating art galleries and museums starts in Oxford at the Pitt-Rivers.

Topical child custody drama by Nicholas McInerney.

10.15-10.30am LW Only

# **Children's Radio 4: Charlotte's Web**

*New Series*

'Charlotte's Web' has been a favourite story of children on both sides of the Atlantic since it was published in 1952.

After Fern saves Wilbur, a small white pig and the runt of the litter, from an untimely death, they spend many happy days together on Zuckerman's farm. Only Charlotte, a grey spider and Wilbur's dear friend, realises the fate in store for the little fat pig and devises an ingenious plan to rescue him from the butcher's knife.

William Hootkins reads 'Charlotte's Web', abridged in seven episodes by Penny Leicester. The story was written by E B White, who was best known for his contributions to the 'New Yorker' magazine and his collaborations with James Thurber.

**Reader/William Hootkins, Director/Marion Nancarrow**

2.02-3.00pm

# **The Frewintosh Formula**

*Repeat Broadcast*

Crawford Logan and John Bett lead the cast in Iain Crawford's play about the consternation felt in the Highlands when news of the Japanese invention of 'instant whisky' reaches them.

**Director/Patrick Rayner**

4.05-4.45pm

# **Kaleidoscope**

It's Museum and Art Gallery week on 'Kaleidoscope' with the programme each day visiting a different collection. Natalie Wheen begins the week in Oxford, where the Pitt Rivers Museum is experimenting with a group of artists making objects to 'hide' among the permanent collection there.

**Presenter/Natalie Wheen, Producer/Adrian Washbourne**

7.45-9.15pm

# **A Child of Consequence**

When Rhiannon, a Cardiff solicitor, is hired by Derrick to defend him in a child custody case, she thinks it's clear cut: Derrick has fled from Sarajevo with his daughter Melodia, leaving his native-born wife there under seige. Under the Hague Convention, Melodia cannot be returned to "an intolerable situation". An aid worker pesters Rhiannon to listen to the wife's evidence but it's only when Melodia herself says she wants to go home that Rhiannon begins to question Derrick's motives.

Owen Teale plays Derrick and Melanie Walters plays Rhiannon in Nicholas McInerney's fourth play for radio. (Radio 4 will be broadcasting a documentary about Bosnian refugees in England, tomorrow night at 7.20pm)

**Director/Alison Hindell**

**BBC RADIO**



Chris Choi takes over  
for a holidaying Diana  
Madill.

Recalls 1985.

8.35am-12 noon

### **The Magazine**

Chris Choi, reporter for BBC TV's 'Watchdog' consumer affairs programme, stands in for Diana Madill this week to present Radio 5 Live's feature magazine programme. There will be the usual phone-in, topical discussion and all the latest news. At 10.35am Sebastian O'Meara presents 'Euronews', bringing the latest stories from across Europe, and 'Actuality', a documentary of life in Britain, can be heard after 11.00am.

**Presenter/Chris Choi, Editor, Sara Nathan**

7.35-8.00pm

### **Sportstrack**

'Sportstrack' looks back at a year of soccer tragedies as well as sporting successes - 1985 - and plays the music which made the charts. The Heysel Stadium disaster, when Liverpool played Juventus in the European Cup final, ended in 39 deaths. The fire in the stand at Bradford City football ground killed 56 spectators, and there were riots as Millwall fans twice went on the rampage.

On the more positive side - a teenage Boris Becker took Wimbledon by storm to win the Men's Championship, and our European team won back the Ryder Cup. Manchester United won the FA Cup in a year that also had many other sporting highlights.

**Producer/Shane Stitt**



BBC RADIO



Alan Freeman on the use of the sample.

9.00-10.00pm

### The Story of Pop

Alan 'Fluff' Freeman continues the theme of music and technology begun by Sunday's 'The Art of Noise' documentary, with a look at the most controversial aspect of the Eighties developments in music, the sample.

The advent of the sampler revolutionized music during the decade, and dance music in particular. It also places the ability to create music firmly in the court of the untutored. But where did this new open season on beats and breaks actually leave the musicians who created them in the first place? Fluff investigates in this week's edition of 'The Story of Pop'.

**Presenter/Alan Freeman, Producer/Paul Kent**

BBC RADIO



8.30-9.00pm

### Lucie Skeaping's Early Music Christmas Special

Lucie Skeaping plays some of the earliest Christmas music in this special programme for the festive season. Music ranges from Medieval Carols and Gregorian Chant, through the haunting and beautiful songs of the Renaissance, to the great choral classics of the Baroque such as Handel's 'Messiah' and Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio'.

**Presenter/Lucie Skeaping, Producer/David Corser, BBC Pebble Mill**

Anne Rogers, the original girlfriend of 'The Boyfriend'.

10.03-10.30pm

### Up in Lights

*Last in Series*

Anne Rogers talks to Adrian Edwards about her starring role as Polly in the original stage production of 'The Boyfriend'. Many people associate Julie Andrews, who played the role on Broadway, and Twiggy, who starred in the film, with the role, but it was Anne Rogers who created and starred in the West End production.

**Presenter/Adrian Edwards, Producer/Bridget Apps**

BBC RADIO



Claudio Abbado conducts Beethoven and Brahms.

1.02-2.30pm

### Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

Claudio Abbado conducts the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra performance of the 73rd opus numbers of Beethoven and Brahms.

Beethoven reached his op.73 in 1809, when he was 39: his last and grandest Piano Concerto, known in this country as the 'Emperor'. The Concerto will be played by the scintillating young Russian virtuoso Yevgeni Kissin.

It was not until 1877, when he was 44, that Brahms composed his op.73, his second symphony in D major. It is the sunniest and most genial of his four symphonies, and is sometimes known as Brahms' 'Pastoral'.

**Producer/John Beckett**

BBC RADIO



Terry Waite returns to his childhood haunts in Wilmslow.

10.02-10.30am FM Only

**Terry Waite in Wilmslow**

When Terry Waite was in solitary confinement in Beirut, he often "wrote" in his imagination, recalling scenes from his childhood and his earliest memories. In the first of two programmes, he returns to the scene of his childhood recollections - Wilmslow.

The major local development has been the construction of Manchester Airport, and Waite looks at the impact on the surrounding countryside in the company of the area's sole remaining farmer. Terry, the son of a local policeman, also discovers how policing in the area has changed. He also visits St Bartholomew's, the scene of his confirmation, where a candle surrounded by barbed wire was kept burning during the years of his captivity.

Finally, he relives the childhood memories of a generation by visiting the caravan of the Rev Bramwell Evans, the 'Children's Hour' presenter of the Thirties and Forties whose Romany caravan has become a place of pilgrimage.

In next week's programme he visits what he called his lifeline, the BBC World Service at Bush House.

**Presenter/Terry Waite, Producer/Miriam Akhtar, BBC Bristol**

10.30-11.30am

**Woman's Hour**

Simon Parkes investigates whether real men wear aftershave on 'Woman's Hour' today.

**Presenter/Jenni Murray, Producer/Sally Feldman**

2.00-2.30pm

**Thirty Minute Theatre: A Scent of Myrrh**

In Elizabeth Woodfield's play, Robby, an eight-year-old boy, comes home for the Christmas holidays from his first term away at boarding school. His grandfather senses a hidden worry in the boy and discovers his fellow boarders have dubbed him "custard" because of his "cowardly" fear of the dark. During the holiday Robby becomes fascinated by the ancient legend that oxen go down on their knees at midnight on Christmas Eve in adoration of the birth of the saviour. Despite his fear, Robby sets out to see if the legend mentioned in Thomas Hardy's poem 'The Oxen' is true.

'A Scent of Myrrh' is retired headmistress Elizabeth Woodfield's first play for radio and stars Toby Daniels, Hedli Niklaus, Leon Tanner and Roger Hume.

**Director/Philip Martin, BBC Pebble Mill**

4.05-4.45pm

**Kaleidoscope**

Quentin Cooper unearths some gems from the Science Museum's collection of art relating to science and technology in 'Kaleidoscope' this afternoon.

**Presenter/Quentin Cooper, Producer/Beaty Rubens**

Fear of the dark and a Thomas Hardy poem are the ingredients of this drama by new playwright Elizabeth Woodfield.

Art meets science and technology at the Science Museum.

**BBC RADIO**



A portrait of Bosnian refugees starting their new life in Somerset.

7.20-8.00pm

### **Just a Normal Life**

On a wet September night in 1992, a group of Bosnian refugees arrived in Somerset. They had been offered refuge by the post master of Wincanton and it was there they started their new life. Over the past two years, they have been sent stories of horror from Bosnia, tales of decapitation of colleagues and tortured friends. They have been told which bits of their furniture and what books made the best fires. Against this background the group has had to come to terms with living as refugees in a small West Country market town.

Former lawyers, scientists, a consultant paediatrician and a sales director talk to Susan Marling and look beyond the basics of food and shelter to explore the real tensions of being a refugee.

**Presenter/Susan Marling, Producer/Mary Price, BBC Bristol**



BBC RADIO



The Christmas world and customs of Thomas Hardy and Dickens evoked by the Mellstock Band.

7.03-8.00pm

## Folk on 2

The Mellstock Band present excerpts from their travelling show 'A Tale of Two Christmases' with readings and music from the worlds of Hardy and Dickens in this festive edition of 'Folk on 2'.

The band, made up of Dave Townsend on violin and concertina, Tim Hill on clarinet, Philip Humphries on trombone and Kathryn Locke on cello, demonstrate how the traditions and festivities of Christmas have changed and developed through the years. Through music, song, dance and drama, the band with colourful costumes and authentic instruments, trace the roots of our present-day Christmas to the rural peace of Hardy's Wessex and Dickens's London.

Christmas has a very special place in the works of both Thomas Hardy and Charles Dickens. For both authors, the festivities and customs of the season express most vividly the essential qualities of their vision of society and life.

Part of the programme is devoted to Hardy's world, a rural England little changed since before the Napoleonic wars - the authentic sound of the church bands playing the old-style west gallery carols, the vital music of the country dances and hints of older briefs in the Mummers' play.

The Christmas of Charles Dickens is the theme for the second half of the programme. The London-based forward-looking culture of the Victorians ultimately replaced the world about which Hardy wrote. Dickens's novels and stories, and the numerous Christmas songs and carols of the period, project the familiar mood of boisterous cheerfulness which spills over into acts of charity and good-humoured merry-making, with Christmas trees, plum puddings, hot punch and presents. 'A Tale of Two Christmases' encompasses all this, culminating in an opportunity for everyone to join in some of the favourite Christmas carols that are as well known today as they were in Victoria's reign.

**Presenter/Jim Lloyd, Producer, Jane Ward, BBC Pebble Mill**

Nigel Ogden presents seasonal tunes at the organ from Birmingham.

9.30-10.30pm

## The Organist Entertains

There is a festive feel to the programme tonight (December 21) as Nigel Ogden introduces an evening of seasonal tunes and Christmas carols from the Birmingham Town Hall. The special concert marks the end of the programme's Silver Jubilee year.

Thomas Trotter is at the console of the mighty five-manual Hill organ, while Penny Weedon plays the Yamaha EL90 and John Walker is at the Yamaha HX-1.

**Presenter/Nigel Ogden, Producer/Stuart Hobday, BBC Pebble Mill**

BBC RADIO



Susan Sharpe leads the 'Mid week Choice' team to Edinburgh.

10.00-12.00pm

## Mid Week Choice

After their very successful foray to Orkney in June, Susan Sharpe leads the 'Mid Week Choice' team north of the border once again to meet the musicians and music-lovers of Edinburgh.

She talks to and plays requests for the children of Orwell Primary School engaged on a multi media project, the bright talents of St Mary's Music School, the cathedral choristers, university students and audiences at the Queens Hall and Edinburgh's new Festival Theatre.

**Producer/Chris de Souza**

BBC RADIO



Another chance to hear this award winning montage of London life.

9.15-10.05pm

### Monument

When the Jury of the Prix Italia awarded 'Monument' the prestigious Special Prize this year, they described it as "a monumental yet personal tribute to the city of London ... a radio movie in music and sound".

Ian Gardiner's 'Monument' (London 1935-93), first broadcast in October last year, is a highly original 35-minute piece for radio about London. Original music, played by the composer's own ensemble George W Welch, is colourfully woven together with news and weather reports, vox pops, radio announcements, location recordings and vibrant effects.

Three distinct 'movements' explore details of life in the city during the Thirties, Sixties and Eighties, both from the perspective of major events and the experiences of those who live, work and play in the capital. These are punctuated by images of London past and present juxtaposed on a cinematographic canvas - a rapid-cutting depiction of the modern-day city that travels through a 60-odd year history of BBC archive recordings.

Director/Ian Gardiner, Producer/Alan Hall

BBC RADIO



Literary recommendations from actresses Annette Crosbie and Frances Barber.

10.02-10.30am FM Only

### A Good Read

This Christmas edition features two of Britain's best known actresses. Annette Crosbie is instantly identifiable as the long-suffering wife of Victor Meldrew in the enormously successful 'One Foot in the Grave'. She is joined by another actress with a memorably smokey voice, Frances Barber. Her versatility was called for when she was in repertory at the National Theatre playing Eliza Doolittle in 'Pygmalion' and Maxine in Tennessee William's 'Night of the Iguana'. On television both women have recently been seen in more satirical roles when they performed monologues for Rory Bremner's current Channel 4 series.

Annette Crosbie has chosen William Boyd's 'The Blue Afternoon', which was last year's Sunday Express Book of the Year, while Frances Barber's choice is this year's Sunday Express prize winner, 'Two Lives' by William Trevor. Edward Blishen complements these two contemporary storytelling masters with stories by American writer O Henry, who is experiencing something of a literary renaissance with his tales of con-men and tricksters.

Presenter/Edward Blishen, Producer/Tim Dee, BBC Bristol

10.30-11.30am

### Woman's Hour

Cheryl Armitage takes to the fields to find out what will happen to the hundreds of women who work on the land if the battle to save the Agricultural Wages Board is lost.

Presenter/Jenni Murray, Producer/Sally Feldman

BBC RADIO



Black comedy with a Dracula theme, starring Nikolas Grace and Maureen O'Brien.

2.02-2.47pm

### Playing With Dracula

Nikolas Grace and Maureen O'Brien star in Nick Fisher's new black comedy, 'Playing with Dracula'.

A group of amateur film-makers decide to create their own Hammer Horror movie, with Count Dracula as the main character. At the last minute, a new member joins the group, a highly-eccentric, deep-voiced individual who seems intent on taking everything over, much to the chagrin of the resident director.

To help the atmosphere, the group have hired an old deserted mansion. Filming begins and one of the cast gives a magnificent performance as one of Dracula's victims. The others are hugely impressed until they notice the bite marks on his neck. Is there a vampire in their midst? More fatalities occur, until only two of the group remain deep in the bowels of the mansion. Which is the vampire?

Nick Fisher's serial 'Terminus' was recently broadcast as the late-night serial on Radio 4 and he presents a programme on fishing for Channel 4. Another Nick Fisher horror story is scheduled for the afternoon of New Year's Eve.

Director/Martin Jenkins

Innovations at Southampton City Art Gallery.

4.15-4.45pm

### Kaleidoscope

Brian Sibley visits Southampton City Art Gallery, winner of the National Heritage Museum of the Year Award, to hear about its innovative ideas including allowing local people to curate exhibitions.

Presenter/Brian Sibley, Producer/Sarah Barnett

Gifted children and their problems.

7.20-7.45pm

### Lost Childhoods

*Last in Series*

Gifted children and their associated problems are featured in the last programme in the series.

Duncan is a highly gifted child who was miserable in his local school. Now he is being educated at home. John, now a college professor, experienced many of the same problems. They talk about missing out on the camaraderie usually associated with childhood, and how being gifted can become a curse if not handled properly.

Producer/Sukey Firth

The agricultural consequences of set aside policies.

8.15-8.45pm

### Costing the Earth

Set aside is a common agricultural policy by which farmers are paid to take land out of agricultural production. There is a comparison of two types of set aside - rotational and non-rotational - on 'Costing the Earth' today, and Jeremy Cherfas will be talking to conservationists, farmers and Government officials to discover what the benefits this policy will have on the land. Will wild species return? What effects will the policy have on the exhaustion of land?

Presenter/Mark Whitaker, Producer/Jessica Mitchell, BBC Pebble Mill



BBC RADIO



Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq with their festive teasers.

Danny Kelly with the best in Christmas music.

7.00-9.00pm

### The Evening Session Christmas Pop Quiz

Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq are joint chairpersons for the 'Evening Session's' annual celebrity pop quiz.

The current darlings of the indie scene pit their wits and wrestle for that elusive "bonus for ten". The panellists are Sarah Cracknell from St Etienne, Jarvis Cocker from Pulp and ex-Wonderstuff frontman, Miles Hunt.

**Presenter/Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq, Producer/ Christine Boar**

9.00-10.00pm

### Soundbite

Mention Christmas records, and the words "good music" don't normally spring to mind. Tonight, however, Danny Kelly faithfully promises to track down the good ones.

He is joined by the Guardian rock critic Adam Sweeting, who turns to the back of the rock thesaurus to look at the band ZZ Top (two men with long beards, and a clean-shaven member by the name of Frank Beard). Plus, a feature that asks 'Who would you most like to wipe off the musical map?', intriguingly entitled 'The Grumpy's Guide to Music's Most Hated'.

**Presenter/ Danny Kelly, Producer/Confederate Broadcasting**

BBC RADIO



Michelle Wright, leading Canadian country performer, with her favourite songs.

7.30-9.00pm

### Country Club

Canadian Michelle Wright is one of country music's most exciting new stars, and is tonight's (December 22) celebrity presenter of 'Country Club'.

Michelle has a virtual monopoly of country music awards in her native Canada where her last album, 'Now and Then' sold double platinum. Her new album, 'The Reasons Why', her third for Arista, is likely to maintain her rise through country's major league in Nashville.

Throughout the programme, Michelle will be choosing her favourite country songs, some learnt from her parents, who were both country performers, some by her favourite Nashville contemporaries, and of course, some of her own most popular songs like 'He Would be 16', 'Take it Like a Man', and her current single, 'One Good Man'.

Michelle is joined in the studio by country music broadcaster and performer Kelvin Henderson for a look back at the British country music scene in 1994.

**Presenter/Michelle Wright, Producer/Dave Shannon, BBC Pebble Mill**

BBC RADIO



Wagner's Siegfried.

1.02-6.00pm

### Siegfried

This year's Bayreuth Festival Ring Cycle continues with 'Siegfried'. James Levine conducts the Bayreuth Festival Chorus and Orchestra, with Deborah Polaski as Brunnhilde, John Tomlinson as The Wanderer, and a new, young tenor Wolfgang Schmidt as Siegfried.

Between the acts, Lord Gowrie, Chairman of the Arts Council and the conductor, David Parry, relive some of their memories of this year's festival.

**Producer/Clive Bennett**

BBC RADIO



Michele Roberts talks to craftsmen and art historians about their use of glass.

10.45-11.30pm

### Night Waves

As Christmas images of stained glass abound, Michele Roberts explores the history and practice of artists in glass looking at the work of jewellers and architects.

Glass is 4,000 years old but it was not until 200 BC that the techniques of blowing were developed. Cutting, etching and moulding were further stages in its history and the Victorian critic John Ruskin maintained that no material "is so adapted to the freeplay of the imagination". Colour, fragility and translucency are all part of its appeal.

Michele Roberts talks to art historians and craftsmen about the medium and visits one of the finest collections in the world at the glass gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, refurbished earlier this year.

Producer/Abigail Appleton

BBC RADIO



Carey Harrison's comedy set in medieval Spain stars Geoffrey Palmer and Barbara Flynn.

2.00-3.00pm

### For a Son

Geoffrey Palmer, Barbara Flynn, David Horovitch, Philip Jackson and James Grout lead the cast in this comedy set in 12th century Spain.

King Alfonso (David Horovitch) and Queen Uracca (Barbara Flynn) are desperate to produce a son after a succession of daughters.

Help comes to them in the form of Rodrigo Diaz (Philip Jackson), a muleteer and small-time con-man. He comes up with a magic potion which he promises will guarantee an heir. When, nine months later, the son duly appears he seems more animal than human and a quick substitution has to be arranged. Several years later, the consequences of this begin to be felt.

Geoffrey Palmer plays Don Pedro and James Grout the Chronicler of the story in 'For a Son' by Carey Harrison.

Carey Harrison (son of Rex) has written many radio plays and now lives in Dublin and commutes to New York where he lectures at Cornell University.

Director/Cherry Cookson

Humberside's unique collection explored by Paul Allen.

4.05-4.45pm

### Kaleidoscope

Humberside's university has the largest collection of European illustrators in the world. Paul Allen looks around their treasure trove in this afternoon's 'Kaleidoscope'.

Presenter/Paul Allen, Producer/Julian May

The colourful life and times of canteen staff in a Sheffield supermarket.

7.20-8.00pm

### Canteen Ladies

Sarah Taylor meets up with the larger-than-life lasses who work in the staff canteen of a large Sheffield supermarket, shares their gossip, samples their scones and has a wild night on the tiles with them.

Sharon, Rita, Jane, Mary, Trish and Babs have worked together for eight years now, but are still good mates. Their kitchen banter cheers up the staff who've had a bad morning on the tills - although there are some who don't appreciate their bawdy humour. Mind you, as a vehement Sharon puts it, "they couldn't run two sinks and do tons of vegetables in between, with your knickers sticking to you 'cause it's that bloody hot!"

BBC RADIO



The irresistible rise of unscripted radio talk, 'phone-ins and chat shows.

**Canteen Ladies 7.20-8.00pm (continued)**

Its a tiring job - each week they prepare 360 dinners, 1,000 snacks and endless cups of tea - but they're always up for their Friday night out. "Any excuse to glam up and go out for a few shandies!" laughs Rita. Sarah Taylor eavesdrops amongst the curry and chips as they celebrate Mary's news.

**Presenter/Sarah Taylor, Producer/Joy Hatwood**

8.00-8.45pm

**Rhubarb and Custard**

Robert Robinson looks at the rise of unrehearsed ad-lib radio. In the early days chat shows, even programmes like 'Desert Island Discs', were scripted and discussions were banned in case they over-excited the listener. Nowadays you can ring a 'phone-in to be insulted by the presenter or announce that you are trapped beneath the wardrobe. The programme is compiled by David Self.

**Presenter/Robert Robinson, Producer/Richard Edis**

BBC RADIO



Arthur Smith debates whether Christmas should be abolished.

8.05-9.00pm

**Arthur Smith on the Floor**

Too many mince pies? Too many family members? A lot of fuss over nothing? An important religious festival or a time of stress and over-indulgence? Should Christmas be abolished?

Join alternative comedian Arthur Smith at the London School of Economics for an amusing and sometimes quite passionate debate on the highs and lows of the 'turkey' season!

Stand-Up Comedian of the Year Kevin Day and fellow jokers Tony Hawkes and Rona Cameron join the students to decide whether we really would want to get rid of what has become a time of Christmas lights, ho-ho-ho, alka-seltzer and pure unadulterated over-indulgence.

**Presenter/Arthur Smith, Producer/Nick Ware**

BBC RADIO



10.00pm-1.00am

### John Peel's Festive Fifty

Every year, John polls his listeners for their favourite tracks of the past year to compile his 'Festive Fifty'. Tonight, the Nabob of Noise runs down those choices from the cutting edge of today's music.

**Presenter/John Peel, Producer/Mike Hawkes**

BBC RADIO



2.03-3.30pm

### Gloria Hunniford's Christmas Concert

Gloria Hunniford invites listeners to join in this special 'Christmas Concert' which features Gerard Kenny and the Chalk Farm Band of the Salvation Army. Other guests joining Gloria at London's Golders Green Hippodrome include the London Choral Society and this year's 'Choirgirl of the Year' - Fiona Wright.

**Presenter/Gloria Hunniford, Producer/Richard Masters**

The Sellers Engineering Band and the Honley Ladies Choir in concert in Huddersfield.

9.03-10.00pm

### Listen to the Band

Roy Newsome presents a special Christmas edition featuring the Sellers Engineering Band, conducted by Phillip McCann, and the Honley Ladies Choir recorded in concert at the Lawrence Bailey Theatre in Huddersfield.

The band, formed by Phillip McCann eight years ago with some of his students from the then Huddersfield Technical College (now University), has quickly established a reputation as one of the finest concert bands in the country. Together with the 60-strong Honley Ladies Choir, they perform seasonal favourites such as 'Joy to the World', 'Away in a Manger', and 'In Dulci Jubilo'.

**Presenter/Roy Newsome, Producer/Bob McDowall, BBC Pebble Mill**

The Celtic Connections Festival.

10.03pm-12 midnight

### Iain Anderson with the Radio 2 Arts Programme

Iain Anderson previews the Celtic Connections Festival 1995 in tonight's 'Arts Programme' which comes from Edinburgh. Iain also goes behind the scenes at the Tron Theatre Company's production of 'Babes in the Wood', follows a day in the life of a choir school and plays some music for the festive season.

**Presenter/Iain Anderson, Producer/Anita Farrell, BBC Radio Scotland**

BBC RADIO



10.45-11.30pm

### How the Angels Fell

Angels are soaring in popularity. They are everywhere in art, fashion and song lyrics and even the Oprah Winfrey show. A Gallup Poll has shown that 69 per cent of Americans believe in angels in their multitudes, 32 per cent believe they have encountered them.

In 'How the Angels Fell', David Goodman traces the peaks and troughs of angelic existence throughout history: how they lost power as an inspirational force and have recently regained it.

David Goodman traces the peaks and troughs of angelic existence.



BBC RADIO



**How the Angels Fell** 10.45-11.30pm (continued)

Angels have certainly had their down periods. Although the ancients believed the Universe was full of angels moving each planet and breath of wind, the work of Copernicus, Galileo and Newtonian physics demoted them as did a huge reactionary force in the institutionalised religions which tried to suppress their numbers to just three: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, who were ineradicable from holy texts.

The programme explores whether angels have more than an aesthetic role. Angelologist Goodman examines the iconography, how angels have evolved from wingless creatures to many-winged Seraphims. Do Seraphims eat chilli, or did Abraham's angelic guest eat curds?

In America, David tracks down the winged creatures with the Head of the Angel Watch Foundation and does his shopping in a store which sells nothing but angels. He also attends services celebrating guardian angels, sings with the Nigerian Church of Seraphim and Cherubim and works out how choirs sang like angels in cathedrals with special amplification.

It is humbling to remember that only the lowest order of angels descend to earth to assist humans!

**Producer/Penny Lawrence**

BBC RADIO



9.45-10.00am

**Radio World**

*New Series*

Forget 'Pick of the Week' for a second; this is 'Pick of the World's Radio' - a real life 'On the Hour' introduced by Simon Fanshawe. All the glorious variety of speech radio as transmitted on the world's networks is captured in four programmes.

The series starts with the world's news from All India Radio, sport from Mike and Mad Dog on America's WFAN, the daily grievance from Good Morning Accra in Ghana, exhortations from Radio Singapore to have more children and the Godslot in Radio Vaticana's 'Ask the Abbot'. Other programmes in the series will look at phone-in hosts, radio romances and the best advice available on the world's radio.

**Presenter/Simon Fanshawe, Producer/Miriam Akhtar, BBC Bristol**

Simon Fanshawe's selection of global speech radio.

Jez Nelson's guide to porcine happiness.

10.00-10.30am FM Only

**One Born Every Minute**

How can you tell if a pig is happy? If you knew that, you could change its conditions to improve its life - especially during farrowing. Jez Nelson joins a group of volunteers who monitor farrowing sows round the clock to judge their happiness in this week's edition of 'One Born Every Minute'.

**Presenter/Jez Nelson, Producer/Sue Broom**

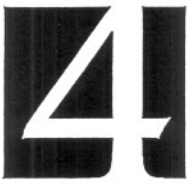
10.30-11.30am

**Woman's Hour**

Neuroscientist Dr Susan Greenfield, soon to become the first woman in 165 years to give the Royal Institute Christmas Lectures for Children, talks to Kathryn Davies about the lectures and her work in this morning's (December 23) programme.

**Presenter/Jenni Murray, Producer/Sally Feldman**

BBC RADIO



'Messiah' with the Royal Philharmonic and the London Choral Society conducted by Jane Glover.

Alistair Beaton casts a sceptical eye over the week's news.

4.05-4.45pm

### Kaleidoscope

Tim Marlow takes a look at Wolverhampton City Art Gallery, which houses the only major collection of contemporary art with a social message outside London.

**Presenter/Tim Marlow, Producer/Helen Garrison**

7.20-10.15pm

### Messiah

To help the Christmas mood, Radio 4 is broadcasting a performance of Handel's 'Messiah', recorded at the Royal Festival Hall on December 9.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Choral Society and the soloists perform Mozart's edition. The soloists are Judith Howarth (soprano), Ruby Philogene (contralto), Ian Bostridge (tenor), and David Wilson-Johnson (bass). The conductor is Jane Glover.

**Producer/Gwen Hughes**

11.25-11.45pm

### Fourth Column

*New Series*

As Alexei Sayle retires from Radio 4 to concentrate on his Channel 4 show, the tenth series of 'Fourth Column' takes on Christmas with the help of its new presenter, Alistair Beaton. Describing his style as "sceptical but not cynical", Alistair promises to continue the 'Fourth Column' traditions: often satirical but always sharp and ticklish. In the last series he brought you "closet conservatives ... you may think you're broadminded but what if your son admitted to being one ...?"

Alistair was one of the original teams that created 'Not the Nine O'Clock News' and has a huge list of writing credits, including many of Ned Sherrin's opening monologues for 'Loose Ends', 'News Huddlines', 'Weekending', TV's 'Downwardly Mobile', 'Spitting Image', 'Dunrulin' and, with Andy Hamilton, the book of 'Drop the Dead Donkey'. He also won a Sony award for his satirical reports from the party conferences for 'The World Tonight', and he even translated 'Die Fledermaus' for D'Oyly Carte Company.

Radio 4's forum for broadcast columnists will see the return of the old team, including this week Ian Hislop, Dillie Keane and Bill Tidy, with guest stars and some hot new talent.

**Presenter/Alistair Beaton, Producer/Malcolm Love, BBC Bristol**

# highlights



## Cover story Week 52

Mona Hammond and Tommy Eytle take time off from 'EastEnders' to play their selection of Christmas music with a Caribbean flavour at lunchtime on Boxing Day on Radio 2.

- 25 Stars Out at Christmas:** Mark Goodier gets the seasonal lowdown from East 17, PJ & Duncan and Salt 'n' Pepa
- 25 Simon Mayo's Big Holy Christmas:** Simon introduces live Christmas music from Sinead O'Connor, Donna Summer and Sandie Shaw
- 42 Simon Mayo's Caribbean Christmas:** Chaka Demus and Pliers, Red Dragon from Jamaica
- 42 Alan Parker's Christmas Special:** subverts everything from turkeys to Cliff Richard

- 26 Disney's Wonderful World Of Christmas:** James Earl Jones takes a journey through the archives
- 26 Christmas At Chichester:** seasonal music from the 12th century Cathedral
- 27 A Dickens Of A Christmas:** with Sir Harry Secombe
- 43 A Caribbean Christmas:** presented by 'EastEnders' Mona Hammond and Tommy Eytle

- 28 Live From the Met:** Mozart's 'Don Giovanni'
- 35 Doctor Johnson's Christmas:** evening of plays and other delights
- 44 Composer of the Week:** Rimsky-Korsakov: 150th anniversary celebration
- 60 Voices: Pick of the Year:** the brightest and best from the 1994 series

- 30 The Snow Queen:** Dirk Bogarde and Diana Rigg star in Hans Christian Andersen's wintry tale
- 36 Desert Island Discs:** David Jason picks his "perfick" selection of tunes
- 46 Murder in Mesopotamia:** John Moffat, Dorothy Tutin, Elizabeth Spriggs and William Franklyn star in Christie mystery
- 54 In Excess:** Armando Iannucci's alternative financial guide

- 32, 40 Yule Never Believe This!:** Ted Harrison takes a sideways look at festive myths (also see pages 49, 56, 59, 63, 66 and feature)
- 32, 41 Jerusalem Live:** behind the headlines in the Middle East
- 39 Hot Pursuits Special:** work out in the Red Sea
- 50 Island Line:** humorous look at Christmas and life on Britain's islands



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**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture shows:  
Mark Goodier  
and East 17.  
Photo credit:  
David  
Graeme-Baker.  
(c) BBC.**



## **Stars Come Out At Christmas**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at 12 noon  
on Radio 1FM

The Walthamstow boys share season's greeting with DJ Mark on  
Christmas Eve.



**More details Inside**

**BBC RADIO**

**2**

**Picture shows: James Earl Jones, Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse.**  
(c) ABC/Disney.



## **Disney's Wonderful World of Christmas**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at  
1.03pm on Radio 2

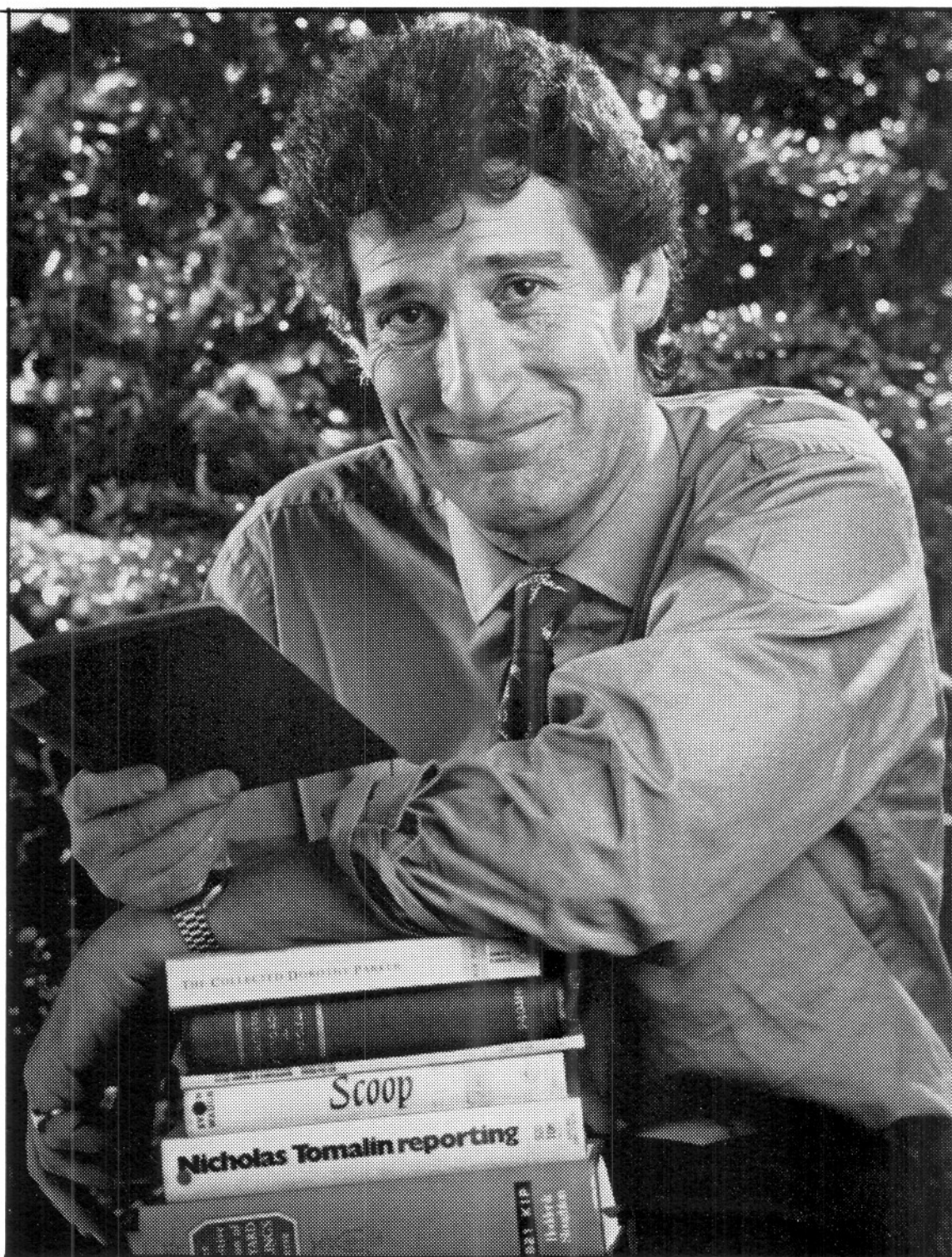
James Earl Jones presents a Disney Christmas celebration  
combining magical memories and music.

**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**

**4**

**Picture shows:  
Jeremy Paxman.  
Photo credit:  
Chris Capstick.  
(c) BBC.**



## **With Great Pleasure**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at  
1.10pm on Radio 4

Jeremy Paxman presents his favourite pieces of writing,  
including extracts from Wilde, Winston Churchill and his own  
anthology, 'Fish, Fishing and the Meaning of Life'.



More details inside

**BBC RADIO**

**4**

**Picture shows:**  
**Clockwise: Sir**  
**Dirk Bogarde,**  
**James Cohen as**  
**Kay, Samantha**  
**Glen as Gerda**  
**and Mark**  
**Burrows as**  
**Pinocchio.**  
**Photo credit:**  
**Chris Capstick.**  
**(c) BBC.**



## **Family Christmas Drama on Radio 4**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 and  
Tuesday, December 27 at 2.02pm on Radio 4

'The Snow Queen' on Christmas Eve and 'Pinocchio' on  
Tuesday, December 27, both at 2.02pm, are just two of the  
offerings in Radio 4's family drama for Christmas.

More details inside

**BBC RADIO**

**4**

**Picture shows:**  
**Sir Dirk**  
**Bogarde with**  
**Samantha Glen**  
**as Gerda and**  
**James Cohen as**  
**Kay.**  
**Photo Credit:**  
**Chris Capstick.**  
**(c) BBC.**



## **The Snow Queen**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at  
2.02pm on Radio 4

Sir Dirk Bogarde is joined by Dame Diana Rigg for a new  
dramatisation of Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Snow Queen'  
with Samantha Glen and James Cohen as the children.



**More details Inside**

**BBC RADIO**

**4**

**Picture shows:**

**(L to R):**

**Malcolm McKee, Debra Gillet,  
Chris Luscombe, Abigail McKern  
and David Delve.**

**(c) BBC.**



## **The Shakespeare Review**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at  
5.00pm on Radio 4

'The Shakespeare Review', devised for the RSC, features the very best comic material inspired by Shakespeare, including pieces by Noel Coward, Cole Porter, Fry and Laurie, Julian Slade and Richmal Crompton and is performed by members of the RSC.

**More details Inside**



**Picture shows:**  
**Liz Barclay.**  
(c) BBC.



## **Jerusalem Live**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at 9.05pm on Radio 5  
Live

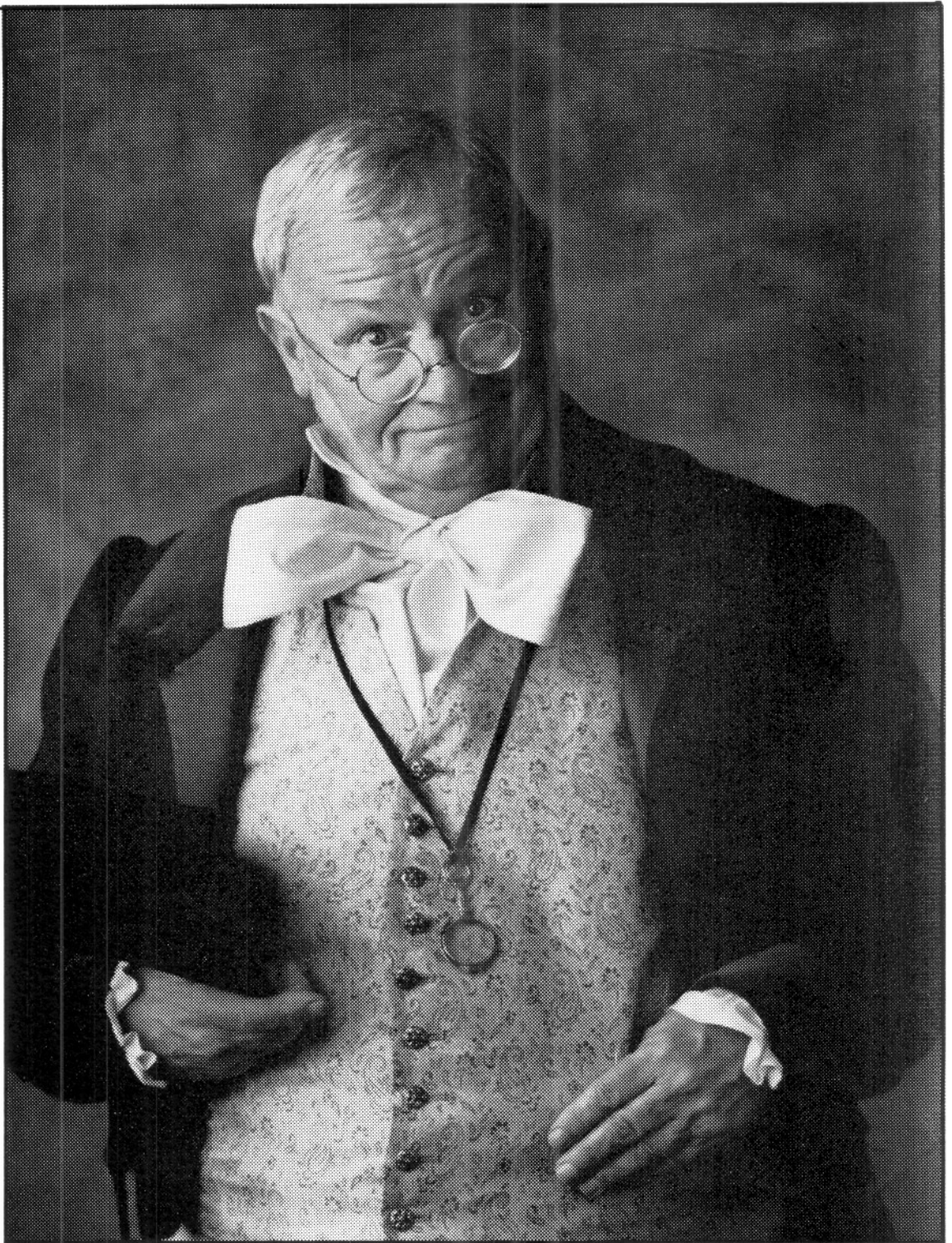
Liz Barclay welcomes in Christmas Day live from Jerusalem to report on the stories and people behind the headlines in the Middle East.



More details inside



Picture Shows:  
Sir Harry  
Secombe.  
Photo Credit:  
John Timbers.  
(c)BBC.



## A Dickens of a Christmas

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at  
10.03pm on Radio 2

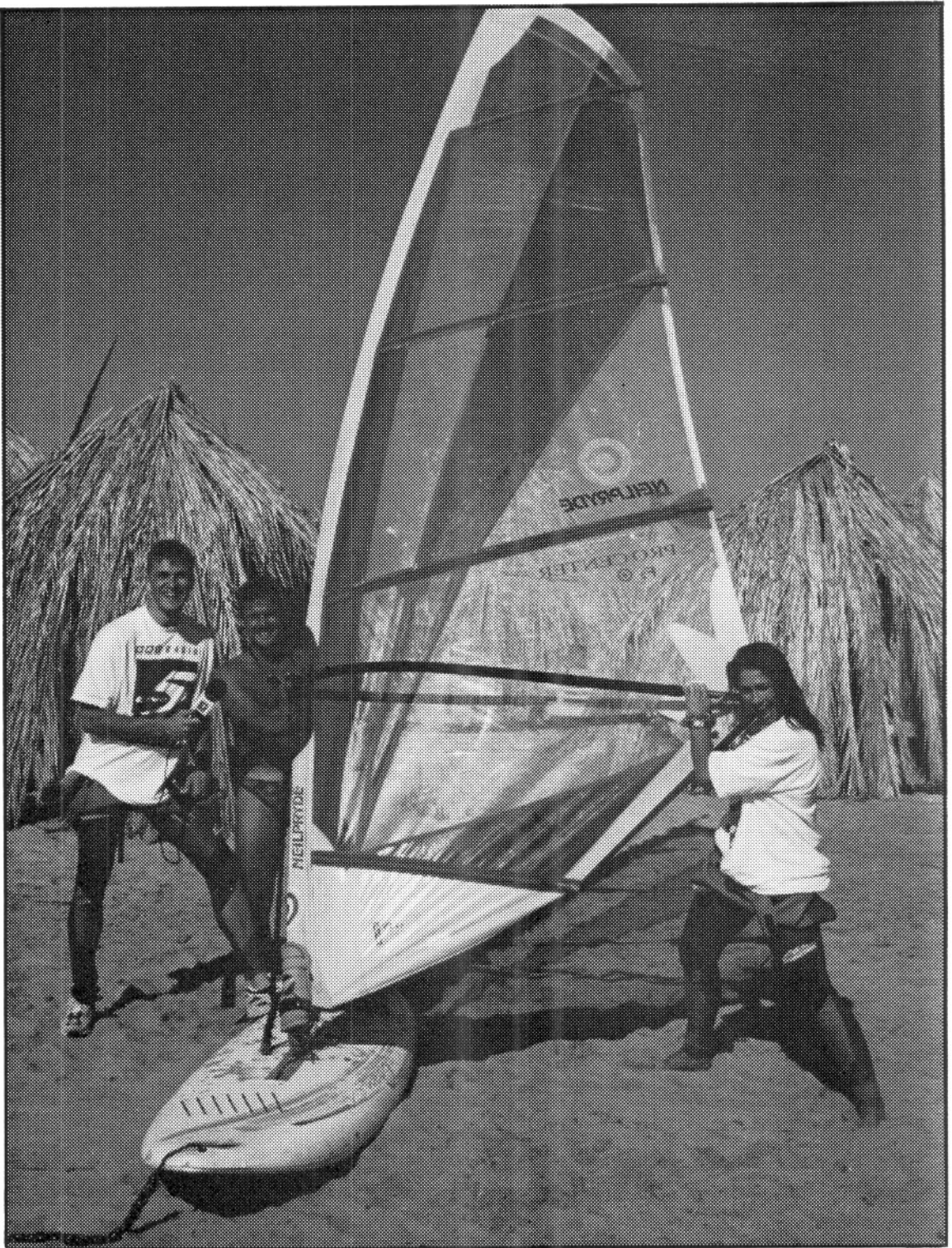
Sir Harry Secombe presents a selection of music with a  
Dickensian theme for Christmas Eve.

**More details Inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture shows:**  
**Left to right:**  
**Jon Ridgeon,**  
**Olaf and Diane**  
**Youdale.**  
**(c) BBC.**



## **Hot Pursuits Special**

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 6.05am on Radio 5  
Live

Jon Ridgeon and Diane Youdale swap the snowballs and sledges of a British Christmas for the sun and excitement of the Red Sea, where windsurfing instructor Olaf, helps them to work up an appetite for their Christmas pud.



**More details Inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture Shows:**

**(l-r):**

**Jane Garvey,  
John Inverdale,  
Ian Payne,  
Diana Madill  
and Sybil  
Ruscoe (front  
centre).**

**Photo Credit:  
David  
Graeme-Baker.  
(c) BBC.**



## **Festive Five**

**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 7.00am on Radio 5 Live**

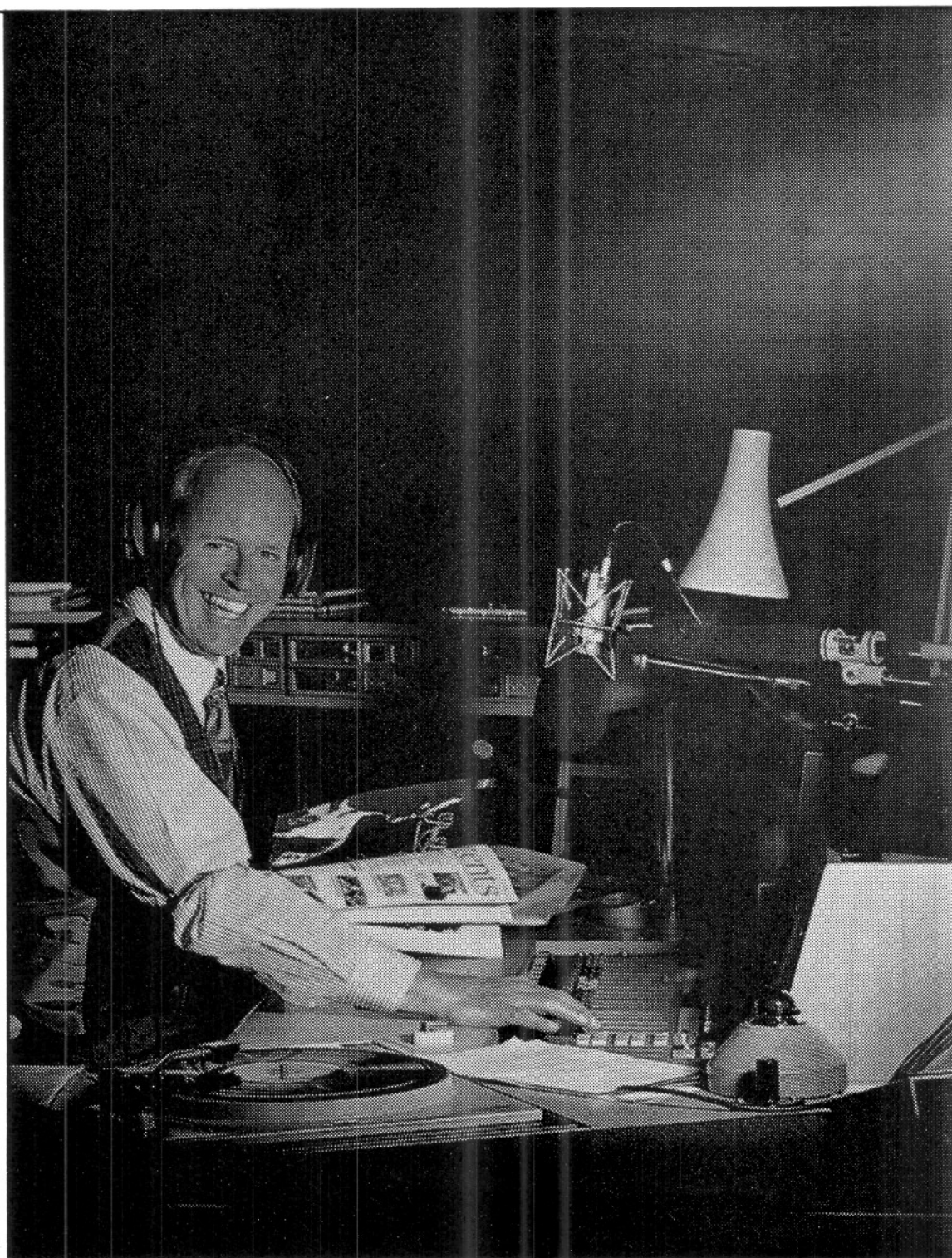
Cracking open the champagne to celebrate Radio 5 Live's first Christmas on air are: 'Breakfast Show' presenter Jane Garvey, 'Nationwide's' John Inverdale, 'Sport on 5' presenter Ian Payne, 'The Magazine's' Diana Madill and Sybil Ruscoe from 'Ruscoe on 5'.

**More details Inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture Shows:**  
**Brian Kay.**  
**Photo Credit:**  
**Damian Gillie.**  
**(c) Rufus**  
**Leonard.**



## **Brian Kay's Sunday Morning**

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 9.02am  
on Radio 3

Brian Kay presents a special selection of favourite Christmas  
music for the big day itself.

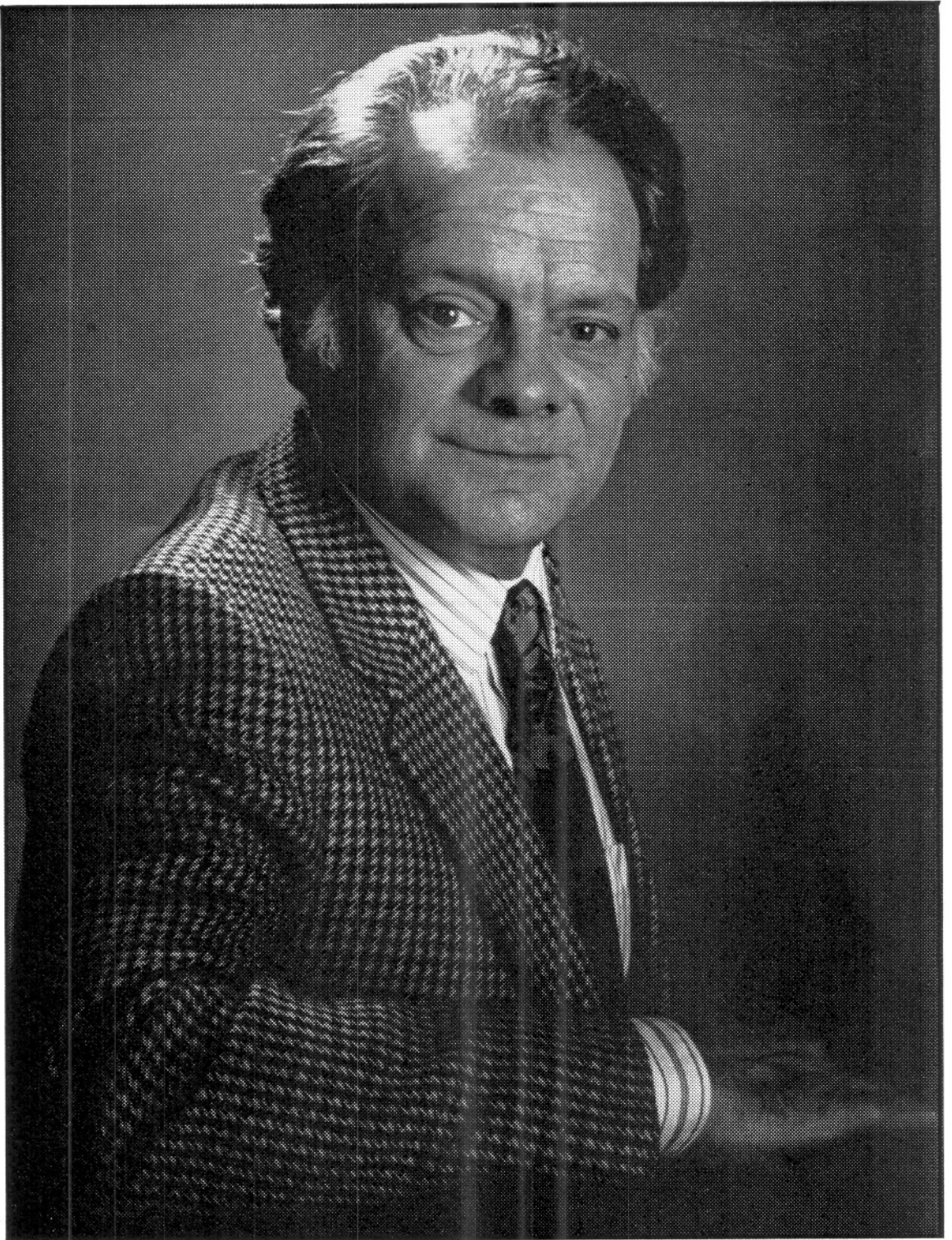


**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**

**4**

**Picture shows:  
David Jason.  
(c) The Richard  
Stone  
Partnership.**



## **Desert Island Discs**

**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at  
12.15pm on Radio 4**

David Jason, one of the nation's favourite actors, tell Sue Lawley how he'd cope on the mythical desert island.

More details Inside

BBC RADIO

2

Picture Shows:  
Roy Hudd, Chris  
Emmett and  
June Whitfield.  
Photo credit:  
Chris Capstick.  
(c)BBC



## The Huddlines Bumper Christmas Annual

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 6.30pm  
on Radio 2

Roy, Chris and June unwrap a selection of their favourite  
Christmas crackers in this special edition of 'The News  
Huddlines'.

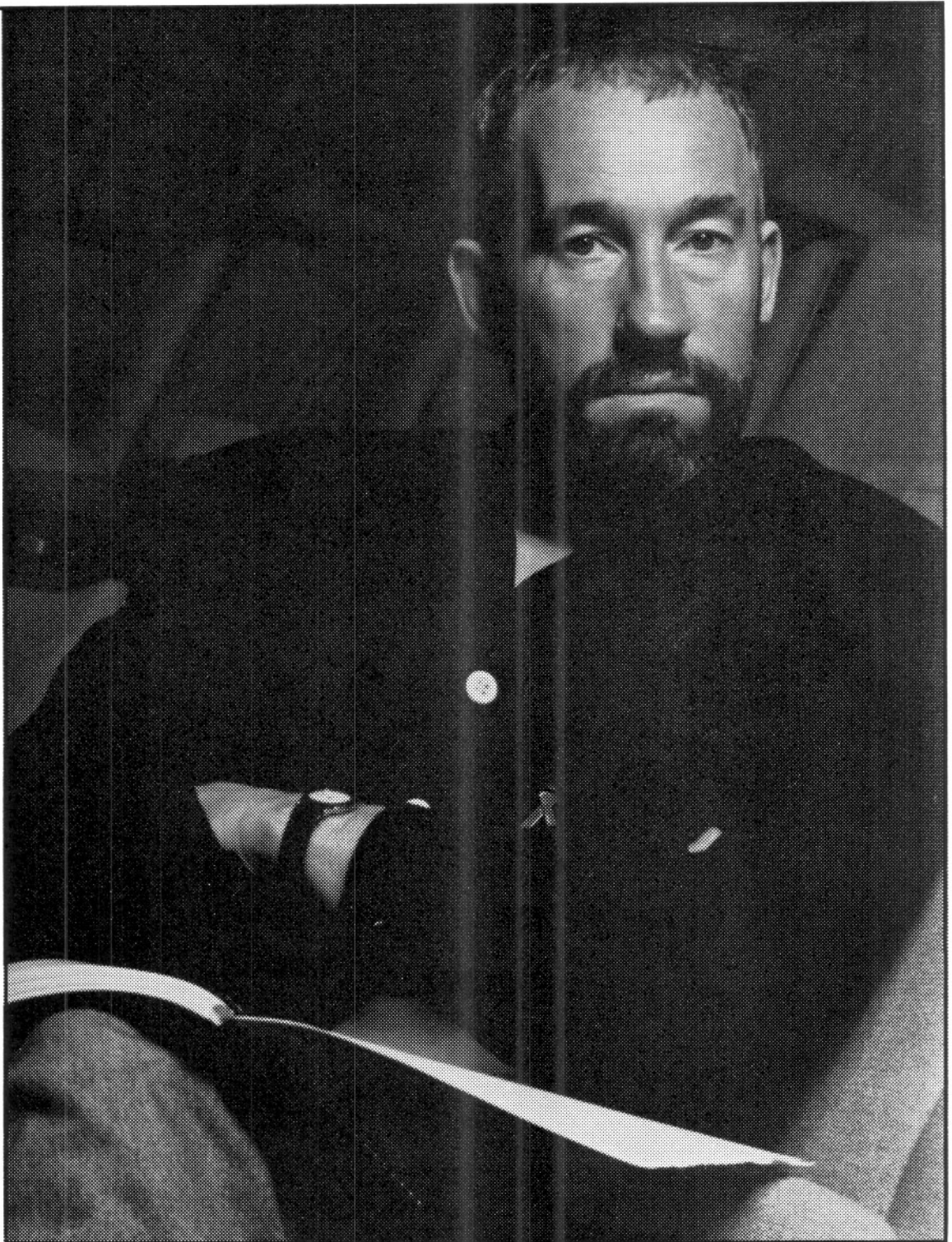


**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture Shows:  
Simon Callow  
who plays Dr  
Johnson.  
(c) Marina  
Martin  
Associates.**



## **Dr Johnson's Christmas**

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 7.10pm  
on Radio 3

An evening of plays and delights devised and written by Snoo Wilson, featuring Simon Callow as Dr Johnson, John Sessions as Boswell, Linda Marlowe as Tetty Johnson, and Maria Aitken as Mrs Thrale.

More details inside

BBC RADIO

4

Picture Shows:

Clockwise:

Richard Briers

(Rat), Nikolas

Grace (Toad),

Derek Waring

(Badger) and

Adrian

Scarborough

(Mole).

Photo Credit:

Chris Capstick.

(c) BBC.



## Wind in the Willows

Boxing Day, Monday, December 26 at 2.02pm on  
Radio 4

Alan Bennett's dramatisation of the children's classic 'The Wind  
in the Willows' gets a welcome repeat on Boxing Day  
afternoon on Radio 4.



**More details inside**

**Picture shows: Tom Morton.**  
(c) BBC

**BBC RADIO**



## **Island Line**

Boxing Day, Monday, December 26 at 10.05pm  
on Radio 5 Live

Tom Morton, writer, award-winning columnist and broadcaster leaves his own island dwelling on the Shetlands to host 'Island Line'.

**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**



**Picture Shows:**  
**Diana Madill.**  
(c) BBC.



## **The Magazine: Phone-in Compilation**

Tuesday, December 27 at 8.35am on Radio 5 Live

Diana Madill celebrates Britain's only national daily phone-in on 'The Magazine' on Tuesday morning.



**More details inside**

**BBC RADIO**

**2**

**Picture Shows:**  
**Lesley Garrett.**

**Photo Credit:**  
**Kate Garner.**

**(c)Silva Screen**  
**Records.**



## **Lesley Garrett**

Tuesday, December 27 at 1.03pm on Radio 2

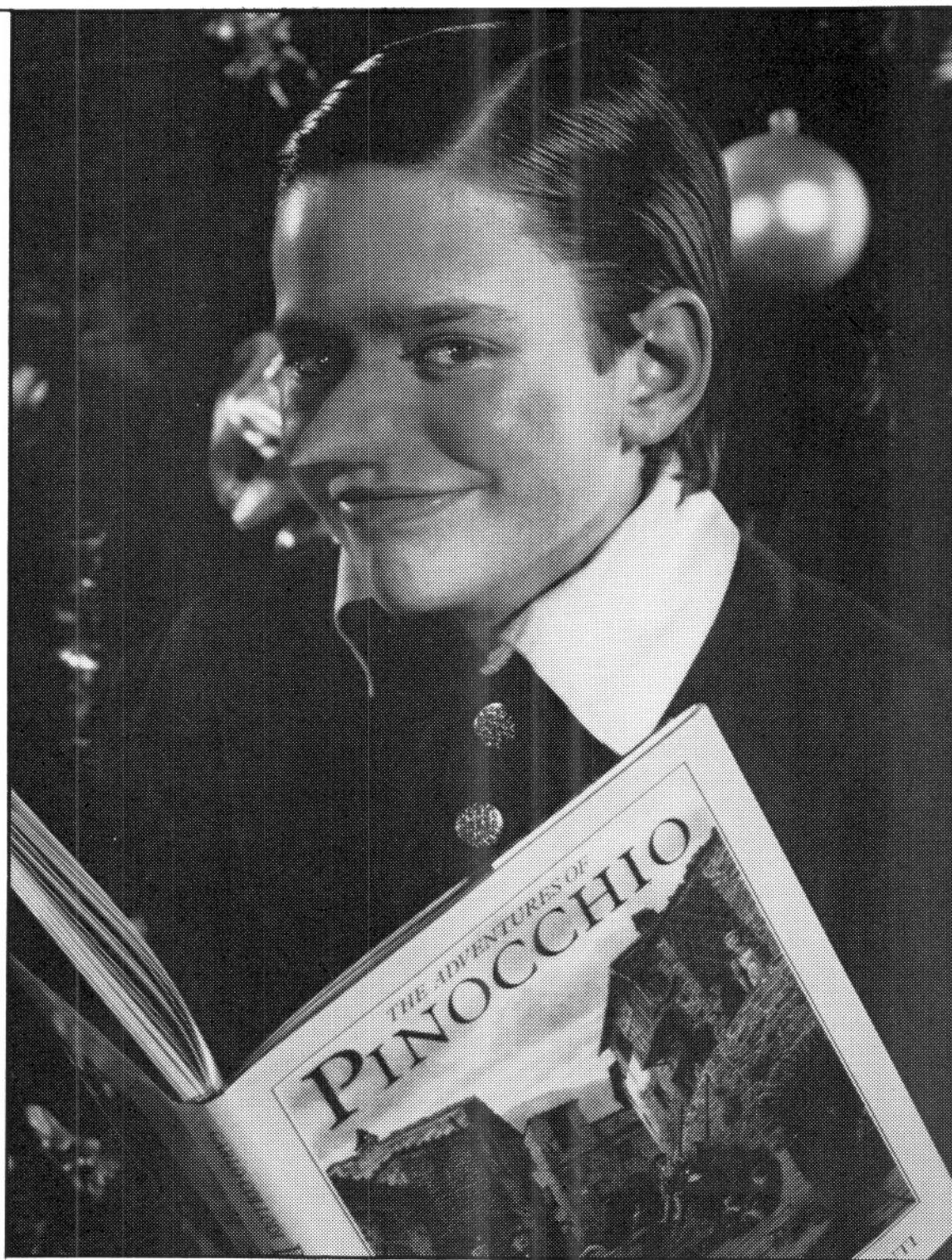
Lesley Garrett introduces her personal selection of favourite music with a special seasonal flavour.

More details inside

BBC RADIO

4

Picture Shows:  
Mark Burrows  
as Pinocchio.  
Photo Credit:  
Chris Capstick.  
(c) BBC.



## Pinocchio

Tuesday, December 27 at 2.02pm on Radio 4

Mark Burrows makes his professional debut as Pinocchio in Radio 4's dramatisation of this classic children's tale on Tuesday afternoon.



# Yule Never Believe This!

BBC RADIO



**Why did the Japanese nail Santa to a cross? And was he really an American ad man's creation?**

**These and other astonishing festive surprises are unravelled in 'Yule Never Believe This!' a Radio 5 Live special series that begins on Christmas Eve at 11.05am.**

**Suzanne Allen reports.**

**(c) Photo Credit: The Coca-Cola**

Tucking into that naughty-but-nice mince pie may seem like a sin - but in fact, once it really was a crime. The Puritans banned the treats as part of their bid to abolish Christmas 350 years ago.

In parts of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church maintained the Puritans's disapproval and even now, members of some strict congregations do not celebrate Christmas.

That's why in Scotland the main celebration comes later, at Hogmanay, or New Year. This is just one of the surprising festive facts to be unravelled in Radio 5 Live's 'Yule Never Believe This!'

Presented by Ted Harrison, the 10-part series takes a sideways look at the myths that surround Christmas.

He reveals that while families across Britain tuck into turkey this Christmas lunchtime, some Polish people will be enjoying carp - a close relative of the goldfish.

And when Russian children reach for their stockings, they will find a piece of black bread, left for them by "Mother Christmas."

Ted said: "Many countries celebrate Christmas, but in very different ways to us. In many European countries, people open their presents early in December to coincide with the feast of St Nicholas."

m/f 1

**More programmes on the selling of Christmas**

**The 'Ad Break Christmas Special' at 10.05am on R5 on Christmas Day.**

**Simon Mayo's 'Big Holy Christmas' at 9.00pm on R1 on Christmas Eve.**

# xmas myths

# Yule Never Believe This!

BBC RADIO



**Why did the Japanese nail Santa to a cross? And was he really an American ad man's creation?**

**These and other astonishing festive surprises are unravelled in 'Yule Never Believe This!' a Radio 5 Live special series that begins on Christmas Eve.**

**Suzanne Allen reports.**

"Some non-Christian countries have imported Christmas and it sometimes becomes misunderstood. In one Japanese store they put up a figure of Santa Claus but nailed it to a cross!"

The Japanese aren't the only ones to have got it wrong as Ted also questions whether Christmas is on December 25 at all.

He said: "There is no evidence in the Bible to say that Christ was even born in the winter, let alone December. In fact, it was in the fourth century that the date was set.

"December 25 was convenient because there was already a Roman Festival around then and pagan festivals celebrated mid-winter and the new birth and new light. Even the year is probably not correct. This was calculated 600 years later and it now seems that Christ was born in five or six BC."

The story of the three kings too comes under scrutiny. They probably weren't a trio - and weren't royal.

And did you know.....

The Christmas pudding ties in with Little Jack Horner, of children's nursery rhyme fame. The real Jack Horner was sent by an abbot to try to bribe Henry VIII, who was dissolving the monasteries. Jack was to hand over a plum pudding, in which the deeds to the manors of Wells, in Somerset, were hidden. But Jack himself pulled out the "plum" - the deeds.

To toast someone comes from an old wassailing custom, when pieces of toasted bread were left floating on top of a warmed brew. People would greet each other by eating the toasts.

Mistletoe was possibly used by the Druids as a fertility symbol.

The sending of Christmas cards only became popular in the late 19th century when the Post Office cut the postage costs.

Carols started off as Tudor dances. They were developed into the carols that we know today by the Victorians, who drew a lot of colour from gospel stories.

Look more carefully at the fairy at the top of your Christmas tree. For they often reflect the fashions of the era in which they were made. Ted, the BBC's former religious affairs correspondent, said: "Fairies made in the Twenties and Thirties often had hairstyles which reflected those decades. My family had a fairy made in the Forties, which had the underwear fashionable at that time."

Even Santa himself is not spared. The programme tells how he was actually invented by American advertisers!

Father Christmas was developed from a blend of the Norse Gods, St Nicholas, and the old spirit of Christmas. The reindeers did not develop until a poem penned much later. Even then, there was no standard image of Santa - some showed him dressed in green while others had him wearing a crown of holly.

Ted said: "It was not until the Thirties that the Santa that we know today was born, when an advertising artist working for Coca-Cola drew a picture of the now familiar white-bearded character in red."

But whatever they say, every child knows who the real Santa is.....

**Xmas myths contd...**



## Sir Dirk Bogarde's



Former matinee idol and knight of the realm Sir Dirk Bogarde, is planning to keep the joys of story telling alive in Britain this Christmas.

The actor turned arch story teller joins that famous dame of English Theatre, Dame Diana Rigg to star in the new Radio 4 dramatisation of Hans Christian Andersen's chilling tale 'The Snow Queen' on Christmas Eve.

Bogarde believes that the enduring appeal of this Hans Christian Andersen classic lies in the "esteemed place that it holds in the folklore of practically every nation".

Concerned about the rapid decline in story telling, Bogarde was delighted to be asked to be the narrator and said in a Radio 4 interview: "Mothers and fathers don't seem to tell stories often enough or as much as they should any more. The bonding between a child and his parents I think is much closer if they have been told stories. The memory of that experience lasts a life time, it is one of the most important things you can be brought up with."

**Bogarde as Author.**

**Dirk Bogarde had his first book - 'Postillion Struck by Lightning'- published in 1977.**

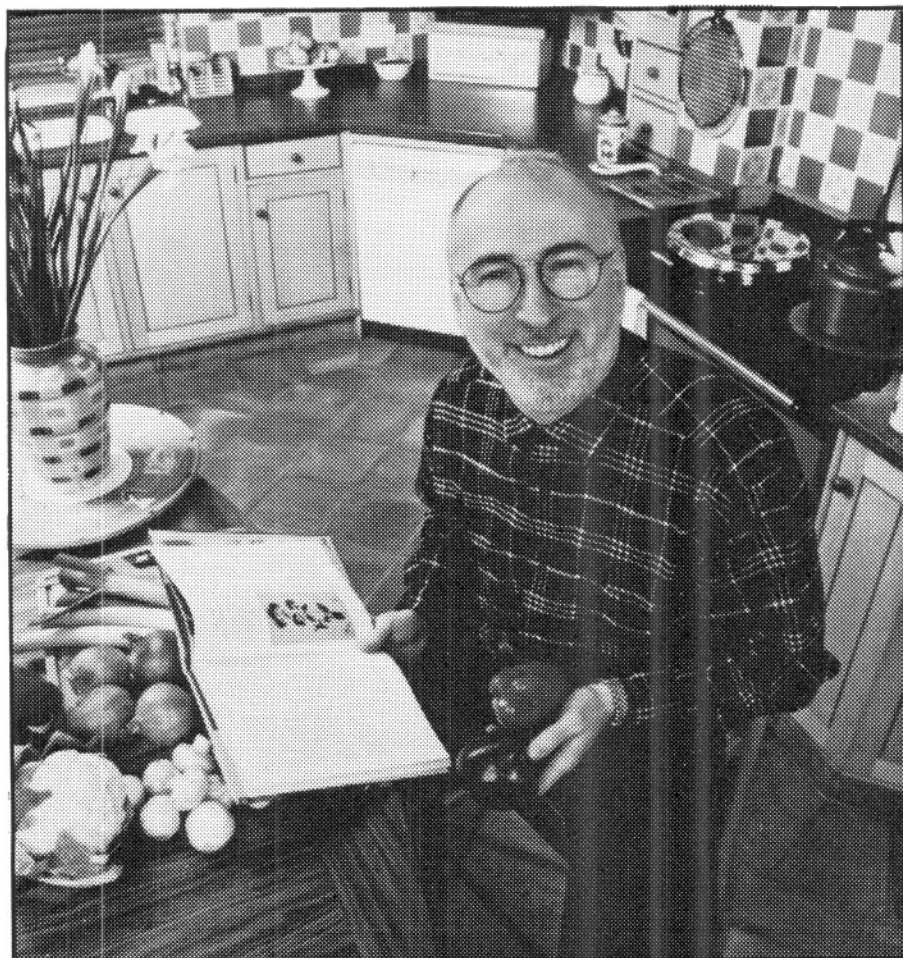
**He once said that his writing has ultimately been far more satisfying than his acting career. He has several best-selling books to his name.**

**These include: 'Snakes and Ladders', 'A Gentle Occupation', 'Voices in the Garden', 'An Orderly Man', 'West of Sunset', 'Backcloth', 'A Particular Friendship', 'Great Meadow', 'Jericho' and 'A Short Walk from Harrods'.**

**Written by Stephanie Hardwick**

# Surviving

# christmas



Ken Bruce is heading for the healthy option this Christmas.

Ken, the on air sparing partner of Jimmy Young, who will be broadcasting on Christmas morning itself, would like to give listeners this tip for surviving the festive season intact: "Never drink anything blue or green or with a little umbrella in it."

And Sarah Kennedy who is waking up the network in the run up to Christmas has this pearl of wisdom for those feeling frazzled by the British Christmas experience: "Don't do everything yourself - rid yourself of the responsibility and get everyone to bring something along. Oh and remember to enjoy yourself!"

Meanwhile Gloria Hunniford who has scooped an interview with Placido Domingo for New Year's Eve (6.03pm on Radio 2) is looking forward to new challenges in 1995. What is her New Year's resolution? "to see lots of my little grandson Charlie and watch him learn to do new things and to finally finish the secret garden I started last June!"

**BBC RADIO**



**Carols to wrap presents to on Christmas Eve**

**R2 5.03pm**  
**'Carlo Curley at Christmas'**  
features the  
**Choir of**  
**Guildford**  
**Cathedral.**

**R2 7.33pm**  
**'Christmas at**  
**Chichester'**  
with the **BBC**  
**Concert**  
**Orchestra**

**R2 11.03pm**  
**'Carols by**  
**Candlelight'**  
from **York**  
**Minister's**  
**13th Century**  
**Chapter**  
**House.**

**And Radio 4**  
**broadcasts 'A**  
**Festival of**  
**Nine Lessons**  
**and Carols'**  
from the  
**Chapel of**  
**Kings College**  
**at 3.02pm.**

**(NB Radio 3**  
**broadcasts**  
**the King's**  
**service on**  
**Christmas Day**  
**at 4.00pm)**

# Alan Green's



## Alan's Football Freezers

By Judy Leighton

While most of us will be looking forward to the festive season and the chance of a few extra days at home, for football commentator Alan Green Christmas means only one thing - even more work. With the glut of football fixtures around the holiday period, it's all go for Alan and his fellow commentators.

"I find Christmas a domestic nightmare in the sense that I can't possibly justify having time off over Christmas," says Alan. "This year Boxing Day is the Monday and there are also games on the Tuesday and Wednesday so I'm doing those. I can't even let myself go on Christmas Day because I'm always thinking ahead to the next day's match. It tends to put an edge on Christmas."

"It's not a time of year I enjoy any more. I used to love it as a child. Football was a special part of Christmas then - you'd have lunch on Boxing Day and then go to a game in the afternoon. There's something different about going to a match on that day, there's a special buzz about the game, the crowds are huge and people are in the festive spirit, wearing santa claus hats and the like. Nowadays we might get mince pies in the press room but it's still work!"

And it's not just the fact that Alan will be away from his wife and young children that spoils Christmas for him - there's also the little matter of the weather...

"Of course it's usually freezing cold at that time of year," he explains. "I remember one FA Cup tie just after Christmas when they had to throw grit down in the press box because it was really dangerous, it was like a skating rink!"

While the fan in the stand can stamp their feet and huddle over a Bovril to keep warm, Alan has to pay close attention to the game. "It's a physical problem because if you're cold, then you can't get your mouth to work properly - it just won't obey instructions from your brain. Similarly if it's snowing or raining all your notes smudge and you can see all your careful preparation running off the side of your clipboard. Standard dress in winter months is underwear, thermals, shirt, jumper, jacket and overcoat. But it's actually part of my commentary style to moan about weather conditions. I want people to know that on their behalf, I'm really miserable!"

Alan's experience around the football grounds of Britain and Europe has made him wise to the best - and worse - places to be sent to.

"Anfield's pretty cold. They've got this huge new stand - you can see the Irish Sea from the top of it - and to get to the commentary position you have to climb up a ladder to the back of the stand, walk along the roof and climb down another ladder to the gantry which is just under the roof. It's very exposed. In fact, Alan Hansen won't go up there as he's afraid of heights."

"On the other hand, Nottingham Forest is a terrific commentary position for keeping warm because you're in a little enclosed box with central heating pipes running through that you can warm your feet on. One freezing cold night at the City Ground I had a new pair of shoes on and I was very cosy, toasting my feet on the pipes - but I was literally toasting - I had rubber soles and they melted; my feet almost caught fire! And my new shoes were completely ruined."

"But really, position is everything. You can put up with weather conditions but you've got to be able to see the game. I did a game at Hartlepool the other January. On the North Sea side of the ground they'd pulled the stand down and put up some scaffolding, with a garden shed on top where me and Jimmy Armfield were commentating. I've never been closer to the touchline - I could almost reach out and tap the linesman on the shoulder to say 'that was never offside!'."

**xmas freezers**



## Caribbean Christmas, Boxing Day Feature

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### Jules and Blossom Spin their Caribbean Discs

Albert Square neighbours Jules and Blossom alias actor and actress Tommy Eytle and Mona Hammond take a break from 'EastEnders' to bring the sound of the Caribbean to Christmas this year. Julia Lupton discovers what's in store

A young man hops into a dray cart full of teenagers singing their heads off and playing guitars as they drive down a tree lined road in Guyana.

It is hot, very hot and it's Christmas. The rhythm rises and with the sun beating down on their backs and the sound of bongos wafting through the air, the revellers' minds are full of the Christmas parties ahead. In no time at all, they'll be tucking into garlic pork, honey and clove roasted ham, pineapples and a Portuguese pastry so delicious it melts in their mouths.

It's a scene a world apart from the holly and the ivy, the snow and tinsel associated with Christmas in Albert Square. But actor Tommy Eytle, who plays Jules Tavernier in the top-rated BBC soap, remembers it as if it were yesterday. For he was one of those Guyanese youngsters leaping into a hired cart to spread a little of the festive spirit in his home town.

"It was a community time. Everyone pitched in at Christmas and mums and dads would say you can bring your friends round on such and such a night, so we ended up with more nights to go through than just Twelfth Night," he laughs.

Now as the festive lights are switched on in high streets around the country, Tommy and fellow 'EastEnders', Jamaican actress Mona Hammond will look back once again on those sunshine filled days as they prepare to bring a taste of the Caribbean to Radio 2 on Boxing Day lunchtime. The programme mixes music, recollections, a rum punch recipe and maybe a little mischievous teasing as Tommy explains:

"The first influx of slaves to the West Indies came from Africa and the joke is always that as the boats came down the lines of the islands the difficult slaves were always put off first in Jamaica and the more peaceable ones came down to Guyana. After slavery was abolished the indentured labour arrived from Portugal and India to join the Africans so the West Indies became a glorious melting pot of cultures, so maybe I'll have a little joke with Mona about her fighting descendants," he laughs.

Tommy hopes to bring the tempo and humour of the Caribbean into kitchens and living rooms across the land by including songs like 'Naughty Little Flea' by Boyzie Grant, a fun number that was once on the BBC's banned list, and 'Airmail Special' by that doyen of the electric guitar, Charlie Christian; Nat King Cole's 'Sweet Lorraine' and 'B G Bagee' by Bill Rodgers.

"In the Bill Rodgers number B G stands for British Guyana, where of course I'm from and Badgee" says Tommy, lingering on the word and drawing out the a to give its correct West Indian enunciation, "is a dish of fruit and fruits do play a big part in a West Indian Christmas."

"But my favourite is 'Airmail Special' because I'm a fan of Charlie Christian who played with the Benny Goodman Sextet. He really was the linchpin of that group and could take any riff anywhere. He's well worth listening to," says Tommy.



## Caribbean Christmas continued

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Tommy's selection reflects his musician's background. When he first came to Britain as a surveyor in the late Fifties, he used to gig at nights as a guitar player. But a posting to Lands End by the Ordnance Survey department back in the Sixties propelled him into music and then later acting, full time.

"I was looking for the buzz but you can't find it amongst those rocks," Tommy jokes as he recalls the start of a show business career that now spans nigh on 30 years. I had always combined being a musician with my bread and butter career as a surveyor, even in the West Indies. But Lands End finished all that. I gigged, until on one occasion, I was thrown off the stage by an electric shock and broke my neck. Actually my life was saved by a man called Mr Johnson who just smashed the guitar out of my hand otherwise I would have been electrocuted."

And on that dramatic note Mona Hammond, joins us in the continuity area in the heart of the Radio 2 studios. She's been held up in traffic but is bursting to record this Christmas special. What particularly appealed to her about Radio 2's offer to make the programme?

"I'd never done a Christmas show before and thought it would be really lovely to share some memories and music. Being an oldie I actually remember when a lot of this music came out whereas many of today's youngsters will be getting it second hand.

Mona's choices, she says, reflect the old days of romance, "when life was much more of an even pace". There are records by Marvin Gaye, the Gypsy Kings, Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole.

But there are also a fair few dance and disco numbers too. Is Mona a bit of a raver on the side? "Well, I love to dance music is the only thing for me if I've had a bad day. I don't need a drink, don't need ciggies just the music. Preferably something Afro or latin. I'll put that on and just dance by myself. It's a wonderful tonic." To that end Mona has also included Gloria Estefan's 'The Rhythm is Gonna get You', her all time whoop-it-up number.

But her other choices reflect the wider spirituality of Christmas with song lyrics and titles that include something for all. "'We Are Family' by Sister Sledge, she explains is "because if people just stopped to think about it, we are all a family. Everyone is related because we are human beings and we should remember that sometimes.

"Then I've slipped in 'When a Child is Born', by Johnny Mathis for the all the mothers who are having their first born, and Lionel Ritchie's 'All Night Long' is for all those having to stay up to prepare Christmas dinner. Pavarotti I adore and 'Ave Maria' is another for all the mothers of the world, not only West Indian. Finally there is the Kings College Choir, that's very traditional and that's for being in England."

But can we expect to hear the Kings College service blasting out in homes in Albert Square? How will 'EastEnders' be celebrating this Christmas? "How big's your cheque book?" jokes Tommy. "You'll have to watch it and see."

**Caribbean Christmas, Boxing Day, Monday, December 26 at 12.03pm on Radio 2**



This Radio  
1FM music  
listings page  
runs from  
Christmas Eve  
Saturday 24  
to Friday 30  
December and  
was compiled  
by Beth Tapp.

# Christmas Rock

## SATURDAY

### Stars Out at Christmas 12.00- 2.00pm

Tony from E17, PJ and Duncan, Whigfield, Eternal, China Black, Bitty McLean, Carter USM, teen idol Sean Maguire and Salt 'n' Pepa join Mark Goodier for special performances as he chats to the stars about their festive celebrations.

### The Classic Christmas Concert 7.00- 8.00pm

Another unique chance to hear Elton John's legendary concert, first broadcast on Christmas Eve in 1973, including tracks such as 'Rocket Man' and 'Crocodile Rock'. This occasion marked the beginning of a long lasting collaboration with percussionist Ray Cooper.

### Simon Mayo's Big Holy Christmas 9.00pm- 12.00midnight

Including live Christmas songs with Sandie Shaw's rendition of 'Rudolph the Red Nose', Donna Summer, Sinéad O'Connor's version of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'The Sparks and Angels' from the Realms of Play, sung by Sophie B Hawkins.

## SUNDAY

### Christmas Day The UK Top 40 4.00-7.00pm

For the first time ever, the UK Top 40 is unveiled on Christmas Day itself, counting every record in every Christmas stocking from sales up to closing on Christmas Eve. Bruno Brookes unveils the Number One just before 7.00pm.

### The Christmas Rock Show 8.00-10.00pm

Highlights from Donington 1994 include Aerosmith, Sepultura and Terrorvision

### Andy Kershaw's Christmas Show 10.00pm-12.00midnight

Featuring Johnny Cash, the undisputed giant of American country music, with the first airing of his performance at the Glastonbury Festival earlier this year.

## MONDAY

### Simon Mayo's Caribbean Christmas 10.00am-1.00pm

Chaka Demus and Pliers, Red Dragon, Junior Reid and Ali Campbell from UB40, broadcast from Sly and Robbie's Jamaican studios. Plus the best of British reggae

### The Evening Session's Live Rewind 7.00-9.00pm

Including the Wonderstuff's last ever gig from the Phoenix Festival.

### The Prince's Trust Gala Concert 11.00pm-1.00am

The BT Birthday Concert featuring a host of performances including Kylie Minogue, E17, Belinda Carlisle and many others from The Docklands Arena, Joe Cocker from Birmingham and Cliff Richard from Glasgow.

## TUESDAY

### The Evening Session's Live Rewind 7.00-10.00pm

Highlights from Blur's Aston Villa gig.

### The Classic Concerts 11.00pm-12.00midnight

Performances from the last three decades, commissioned by Radio 1 feature in 'The Classic Concerts'. A 1973 gig from The Faces, Led Zeppelin and The Rolling Stones both from 1971, and Queen recorded in 1976, open this slot.

## WEDNESDAY

### The Evening Session's Live Rewind 7.00-10.00pm

Highlighting the Oasis gig from last year's 'Sound City'.

### The Classic Concerts 11.00-12.00midnight

Ian Dury and The Blockheads, The BoomTown Rats, Generation X and The Jam all recorded in 1978; Sham 69 and The Members from 1979; and The Undertones from 1980 all feature in the 'Classic Concert' slot tonight.

## THURSDAY

### The Evening Session's Live Rewind 7.00-10.00pm

REM from the South of France, Oasis from Newcastle, Blur's review of Parklife, Carter USM in Croatia, Miles Hunt on the Wonderstuff and a tribute to Kurt Cobain.

### The Classic Concerts 11.00pm-12.00midnight

Tonight's classic 'In Concert' performances come from Roxy Music, The Pretenders, and The Police, all recorded in 1979, and Dire Straits from 1978.

## FRIDAY

### John Peel 10.00pm-1.00am

Features John Peel's top tips for '95.

and pop

# *the week ahead*



**BBC Radio  
Light  
Entertainment  
provides  
quizzes, panel  
games,  
scripted  
comedy and  
series across  
the networks  
to keep your  
spirits up.**

**This Light  
Entertainment  
page runs  
from Saturday  
24 to  
Wednesday 28  
December.**

**Written and  
compiled by  
Stephanie  
Hardwick.**

## **SATURDAY CHRISTMAS EVE**

### **R4 Just A Minute 11.02-11.30am**

Help celebrate Christmas without hesitation, repetition or deviation by joining Chairman Nicholas Parsons and guests Clement Freud, Stephen Fry Peter Jones and Derek Nimmo in 'Just a Minute'.

### **R4 The Million Pound Radio Show 11.30am-12.00noon**

Crime, poverty, recession, unemployment, Happy New Year. Andy Hamilton and Nick Revell present this 'State of the Nation Special' featuring Felicity Montagu and Jasper Jacob.

### **R4 The News Quiz of the Year 12.25-12.55pm**

Barry Took looks back on the best stories and the best answers of 1994 with Alan Coren, Richard Ingrams, Francis Wheen and guests in the second of a two-part special of 'The News Quiz'.

### **R2 The Golden Days of Radio 7.03-7.33pm**

This week Robin Boyle introduces a special seasonal edition of 'Hancock's Half Hour'. Originally broadcast in 1956 it stars Tony Hancock, Sidney James, Bill Kerr, Hattie Jacques and Kenneth Williams.

## **SUNDAY CHRISTMAS DAY**

### **R4 The Masterson Inheritance Christmas Special 11.15-11.45am**

Another chance to hear 'The Masterson Inheritance Christmas Special' where the wicked Masterson Family attempt to celebrate Christmas in the traditional manner. Starring Josie Lawrence, Paul Merton, Jim Sweeney, Phelim McDermott, Caroline Quentin and Lee Simpson.

### **R2 The Huddlines Bumper Christmas Annual 6.30-7.00pm**

The Huddlines team - Roy Hudd, June Whitfield and Chris Emmett go on a festive romp through the news, with music from Peter Moss and his West Lothian Reindeer Tickling Quartet.

## **MONDAY BOXING DAY**

### **R2 The Henry Mancini Tribute 5.03-6.00pm**

Lorelei King narrates a tribute to Henry Mancini, Hollywood's greatest composer, conductor and arranger, who died earlier this year.

### **R2 Busby Berkeley: You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet 6.03-7.00pm**

Hollywood and Broadway conductor John McGlinn joins Christ Stuart to celebrate the career of the legendary musical director Busby Berkeley.

### **R1 Alan Parker's Christmas Special 9.00-10.00pm**

Alan Parker, Urban Warrior, returns to Radio 1FM for this one hour special full of all the traditional festive favourites of politics, punk and class war.

### **R2 London Calling 10.30-11.00pm**

Jimmy Perry's four-part 'London Calling' about the early days of the BBC (not-so-loosely based on fact). gets a repeat run nightly until Thursday on Radio 2. Starring Graham Crowden, Jimmy Perry, Bill Pertwee, Roy Hudd and Jeffrey Holland.

## **TUESDAY**

### **R4 Gush 6.30-7.00pm**

The world is still teetering on the brink of war as Ian Hislop and Nick Newman's epic-mini-series reaches its final episode.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **R4 Masterbrain 6.30-7.00pm**

Robert Robinson chairs this special challenge match featuring the winners and runners-up of the 1994 'Brain of Britain' and 'Mastermind' competitions. Taking part will be 'Brain of Britain' Ian Wynn-Mackenzie and runner-up Jeremy Cotton and 'Mastermind' George Davidson and runner-up Graham Roe.

**For further information contact Network Radio Publicity Officers on Radios 1,2, and 4.**



# BBC

## RADIO SPORT

**BBC RADIO**



### SATURDAY CHRISTMAS EVE

#### **Test Match Special 12.00midnight-7.00am**

England's campaign to re-capture the Ashes, continues in Melbourne where Jonathan Agnew heads the commentary team for ball-by-ball coverage of the second Test. Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Neville Oliver and Peter Baxter join him in the commentary box while David Gower and Trevor Bailey provide the expert analysis.

#### **Sport on Five 1.05-6.00pm**

Stirling Albion play Brechin City in the Scottish League, in the only game of the day. Ian Payne hosts coverage of the match and also looks back at the year in sport.

### BOXING DAY MONDAY

#### **Test Match Special 12.00-7.00am**

Ball-by-ball commentary from the second day of England's second Test against Australia, with Jonathan Agnew and the team recovering from the Christmas Day rest day festivities down under.

#### **Sport on Five 11.30-6.00pm**

Ian Payne will have all the news from a packed Boxing Day sports schedule - including live soccer commentary from a full league programme in England and Scotland, rugby league from eight games in the Stones Bitter League and reports from 10 holiday race meetings - including live coverage from Kempton Park.

#### **The Monday Match 8.00-10.00pm**

'The Monday Match' moves to Maine Road for the FA Premiership clash between Manchester City and Blackburn Rovers. Eleanor Oldroyd hosts live coverage of the game.

### BANK HOLIDAY TUESDAY

#### **Test Match Special 12.00-7.00am**

Jonathan Agnew is joined in the commentary box by Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Neville Oliver and Peter Baxter for full commentary from the third day's play in the second Test at Melbourne. David Gower and Trevor Bailey give their expert opinions.

#### **Sport on Five 1.35-5.30pm**

Live coverage from the FA Premiership - Nottingham Forest play Norwich City and Spurs play Crystal Palace in the London derby match. Ian Payne will also have action from five race meetings - including commentary from Chepstow and Kempton.

### WEDNESDAY

#### **Test Match Special 12.00-7.00am**

Full commentary and coverage from the fourth day's play in the second Test, hosted by Jonathan Agnew.

#### **Trevor Brooking's Football Night 7.35-10.00pm**

Commentary and coverage from one of the 10 FA Premiership matches tonight. Trevor will have all the news and up-dates from the rest of the evening's sport.

### THURSDAY

#### **Test Match Special 12.00-7.00am**

Jonathan Agnew and the team will have full, live commentary from the final day's play in England's second Test against Australia.

**This Sports Page runs from Saturday 24 to Thursday 29 December 1994.**

**Compiled by Mike Day and Julia Lupton.**

**For further information contact Mike Day BBC Radio Sport Publicity on 071-765 2628**



# *the week ahead*

This page was compiled by Karen Rose and runs from Saturday 24 to Friday 30 December.

## *drama highlights*

### **SATURDAY**

#### **R4 The Snow Queen 2.02-3.00pm**

Diana Rigg plays the Snow Queen in one of the best loved of Hans Christian Andersen stories. This Berlie Doherty adaptation is narrated by Dirk Bogarde. The children are played by Samantha Glen and James Cohen.

#### **R4 Shakespeare Revue 5.00-5.30pm**

Debra Gillet, Abigail McKern, Christopher Luscombe, David Delve and Malcolm McKee star in Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee's theatre hit; a sparkling and witty entertainment of prose, poetry and song. Featuring the writings of Victoria Wood, Noel Coward, Patrick Barlow, Sandy Wilson, Frank Muir and Dennis Norden, the revue celebrates the rumour and reminiscences that surround the Bard of Avon.

### **SUNDAY**

#### **R4 The Twelve Days of Christmas 2.45-3.45pm**

Poet, Lemn Sissay plays a demented DJ on Radio Rack and Ruin and Neil Dudgeon, (recently seen in Common as Muck) is Ronald Rowbottom in writer Briony Lavery's oddball contemporary version of the traditional, seasonal, gift-giving song.

#### **Children's R4: A Child's Christmas in Wales 6.30-7.00pm**

Freddie Jones and Philip Madoc recreate the memory of Dylan Thomas's childhood Christmas in this Herbert Williams dramatisation.

#### **R3 Doctor Johnson's Christmas 7.30-10.10pm**

Simon Callow, John Sessions, Linda Marlowe and Maria Aitken head the cast in an evening of plays and other delights, devised and written by Snoo Wilson. The dramas are 'Poonsh' and its sequel, 'The Good Doctor,' inbetween which there will be a Yuletide interlude. The evening concludes with a festive motley of poetry and prose celebrating a pre-Victorian Christmas.

### **MONDAY**

#### **R4 Murder in Mesopotamia 11.30am-12.00 noon**

John Moffatt recreates his highly acclaimed performance as the Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot in this new Agatha Christie adventure, with a cast which stars William Franklyn, Dorothy Tutin, Elizabeth Spriggs and Richard Todd. Can be heard every day this week.

#### **R4 Distant Music 7.45-9.15pm**

Dublin 1903. Gabriel (Dermot Crowley) and Gretta (Catherine Byrne) travel to the Yuletide party traditionally given by Gabriel's aged aunts. But there's to be more to worry about for Gabriel than just his forthcoming speech of thanks. Based on James Joyce's short story, 'The Dead.'

### **TUESDAY**

#### **R4 Pinocchio 2.02-3.30pm**

Mark Burrows, 13, makes his acting debut as Pinocchio in Carlo Collodi's classic fairy tale about a stringless puppet who runs away from his father, a toy maker and learns what it takes to live in the human world. The cast also includes: Stephen Moore, Phil Daniels and Tilly Vosburgh.

### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **R4 Journey to the Centre of the Earth 2.02-3.30pm**

Jules Verne's subterranean adventure story is faithfully retold in this new Steve Walker dramatisation.

### **FRIDAY**

#### **R4 The Wolves of Willoughby Chase 2.02-3.30pm**

Jane Lapotaire plays the wicked Miss Slighcarp in Joan Aitken's atmospheric story about a girl (Abigail Docherty) who finds herself at the mercy of a new and relentlessly cruel guardian. Will she find a way of escaping her evil clutches? Cast also includes John Rowe and Emily Watson.



# telling tales

This serials and readings page runs from Saturday 24 to Friday 30 December and was compiled by Stephanie Hardwick.

## readings

### SATURDAY CHRISTMAS EVE

#### R4 The Snow Queen 2.02-3.00pm

Dirk Bogarde returns to Radio 4 to take on the role of narrator in one of Hans Christian Andersen's best loved tales, 'The Snow Queen'. Gerda sets off on a journey to the far north to rescue her playmate Kay, who has been whisked away by the Snow Queen (played by Diana Rigg).

### SUNDAY CHRISTMAS DAY

#### R2 Phillip Schofield Reads Joseph 2.03-2.58pm

Another chance to hear Phillip Schofield read from 'Joseph and His Coat of Many Colours' with music from the original West End production of 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

#### R2 The Christmas Truce 3.03-4.00pm

Robert Hardy narrates the story of the Christmas truce, as seen from both sides of the trenches on Christmas Day in 1914.

### MONDAY BOXING DAY

#### R4 Recess Reading: Murderers and Other Friends 8.43-8.58am

John Mortimer begins his recollections of his eventful life at the BAR when he reads from his recent book 'Murderers and Other Friends' each morning this week.

#### R4 Children's Radio 4: Charlotte's Webb 10.15-10.30am LW Only

William Hootkins continues reading from E B White's well-loved children's tale about Wilbur the pig and his spider friend Charlotte

#### R4 Short Story: Family Feelings: Fool For Love 4.45-5.00pm

Each afternoon this week author Deborah Moggach reads a different story that looks at those 'Family Feelings' which are so often brushed under the carpet. In 'Fool for Love' Esther's boyfriend is as young as her son, but will the relationship bring her happiness, or heartache.

#### R4 Book at Bedtime: The Diamond as Big as the Ritz 10.45-11.00pm

Another chance to hear Garrick Hagon reading F Scott Fitzgerald's novella When John T Unger befriends the enigmatic Percy Washington at school, little does he know that the friendship will involve him in a scandalous secret - a secret that involves the Washington family and diamonds ...

### TUESDAY

#### R4 Short Story: Family Feelings: The Use of Irony 4.45-5.00pm

Paula needs time and space to work on an essay, but will Esther's house do?

### WEDNESDAY

#### R4 The Willows in Winter 10.15-10.30am LW Only

David Suchet begins reading from an eight-part adaptation of William Horwood's delightful adventures of Toad, Ratty, Badger and Mole following on from Kenneth Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows'. Despite time spent in gaol and a gaol-break, Toad has not mended his ways and is still up to his old tricks. This time they include his infatuation with planes, parachuting, disguises and running from the police.

#### R4 Short Story: Family Feelings: Rent-A-Granny 4.45-5.00pm

Life can be exhausting and complicated, especially if you're a middle-aged writer with an extended family like Munro. One of the main problems is finding some peace and quiet to contemplate your writer's block. But why do all the females seem to desert Munro in his hour of need?

### THURSDAY

#### R4 Short Story: Family Feelings: Sex Objects 4.45-5.00pm

Des is a desirable man, but even his life isn't without complications.

### FRIDAY

#### R4 Short Story: Family Feelings: I Don't Want to Know 4.45-5.00pm

Is it the right time to make firm resolutions? There are advantages in a little flexibility. Deborah Moggach reads from her final Christmas story specially written for radio.



BBC RADIO



Mark Goodier gets the seasonal lowdown from E17's Tony Mortimer and PJ and Duncan, gets the new attitude from Salt 'n' Pepa and Sean Maguire reveals all about his 'Walton' style Christmas.

12.00 noon-2.00pm

### Stars Out at Christmas

A bevy of pop stars and celebrities join Mark Goodier for Christmas festivities and special performances on Christmas Eve this year.

East 17's Tony Mortimer drops in to tell Mark how he intends to take a break over the holiday to recharge his batteries. 'Eventually,' says Tony, whose band enjoyed chart success with 'All Around the World', 'your body says no more.'

Whigfield, who shot to Number One with 'Saturday Night' and the all girl band Eternal, whose recent hit single 'Oh, Baby I ..' is riding high in the charts, will also be nattering to Mark about their festive celebrations.

Former 'EastEnders' star and teen idol Sean Maguire declares that 1994 'has been one of the best years of my life, 10 times better than I could have imagined' and describes his forthcoming 'Walton' style Christmas. Salt 'n' Pepa reveal to Mark that they have changed their looks and attitudes and Mark receives more gossip from China Black, Bitty McLean and Carter USM.

**Presenter/Mark Goodier, Producer/Wise Buddah**

7.00-8.00pm

### The Classic Christmas Concert: Elton John

There is another chance to re-live vintage Elton John with this legendary concert, first broadcast on Christmas Eve in 1973. The Seventies spelt peak success for Elton. After a review by Robert Hillbourn of The Los Angeles Times, Elton said he "became more or less an overnight sensation. It was an incredibly exciting time."

This occasion also marked the beginning of a long lasting collaboration with percussionist Ray Cooper. The 1973 concert included famed tracks such as 'Rocket Man', 'Your Song', which was his first hit as a solo singer, 'Crocodile Rock', 'Daniel' and 'Goodbye Yellow Brick Road'. Elton was quoted in a Radio 1 Christmas special in 1990 saying "it was just a wonderful five-year-period, that initial period from '70 to '75 when I could not put a foot wrong."

**Producers/Chris Lycett, Andy Rogers**

9.00pm-12.00 midnight

### Simon Mayo's Big Holy Christmas

Simon Mayo unwraps the glitzy packaging of Christmas to look at how the most celebrated day in the Christian calendar is told and sold. On the festive music side Sandie Shaw joins Simon to give her rendition of 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer' live and there's also Sinead O'Connor's version of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and Sophie B Hawkins sings 'Sparks and Angels' from the 'Realms of Play'.

**Presenter/Simon Mayo, Producer/Burning Pictures Production**

6.00-8.00am

### Sujata's Christmas Party

Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen and Isla St Clair join Sujata for an early morning Christmas celebration. The show will feature plenty of festive music, crackers and party hats, and resident cook Helen Kinch will be making a special punch and promises some interesting things 'to do' with champagne!

**Presenter/Sujata Barot, Producer/Philip Whitaker, BBC Pebble Mill**

Vintage Elton John recorded in Los Angeles in 1973.

Is Christmas the greatest story ever sold?

BBC RADIO



BBC RADIO



James Earl Jones, the voice behind Darth Vader and Mufasa from the 'Lion King', takes a trip through the Disney archives.

Carlo Curley and the Choir of Guildford Cathedral perform a festive selection of carols.

Gillian Reynolds goes ghostbusting through the archives.

Seasonal music from the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Saint Richard singers and the Chichester Cathedral choir.

1.03-2.00pm

### Disney's Wonderful World of Christmas

Hollywood actor James Earl Jones - the voice of Darth Vader, and star of recent films 'Clear and Present Danger' with Harrison Ford and 'Sommersby' with Richard Gere, presents a Disney Christmas celebration for Radio 2.

The show combines magical memories and music from the Disney archives together with recollections from personalities including Danny DeVito, Mel Torme, Gloria Estefan and Lloyd Bridges. Songs include Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas' and Nat King Cole's 'The Christmas Song'.

Jones, who also provided the regal voice of Mufasa for Disney's hit movie 'The Lion King', said 'Christmas has always been a very special time for my family,' adding 'traditions I'll always cherish, like searching for the right Christmas tree, but I also remember the true meaning of the holiday and what it symbolizes'.

**Presenter/James Earl Jones, Producer/Davina Greenspan, SJS Productions**

5.03-6.00pm

### Carlo Curley at Christmas

Angela Rippon introduces a Christmas Eve concert spectacular featuring the Choir of Guildford Cathedral conducted by the Master of Music at Guildford, Andrew Millington.

As well as accompanying the choir, maestro Carlo Curley will perform duets on the Allen computer organ. There'll also be popular carols featuring both old and new music for Christmas.

**Presenter/Angela Rippon, Producer/Keith Loxam**

6.03-7.00pm

### Ghosts from the Archives

Journalist and radio critic, Gillian Reynolds takes a light-hearted meander through the 'Ghosts' of the archives.

An example of real life and extraordinary stories included in the programme are a headless woman in a long white gown who walks the field near Corfe Castle in Dorset and a poltergeist who haunts the corridors of London's Burlington Arcade.

In a 'ghostbusting' mood, Gillian uncovers about 200 spirit-related interviews, spooky music and other visitations from the Forties onwards.

**Presenter/Gillian Reynolds, Producer/Ruth Cubbin**

7.33-9.30pm

### Christmas at Chichester

Christopher Timothy and Roger Royle present a programme of seasonal music for Christmas Eve which comes from the magnificent 12th century Cathedral at Chichester in Sussex.

The BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Robin Stapleton, is joined by the Cathedral Choir, Organist and Choirmaster, Alan Thurlow and the Saint Richard Singers. Along with the carol singing there will be an assortment of music - choral, instrumental and orchestral, including a Christmas motet by a one-time organist, Thomas Weelkes and a setting of 'In The Bleak Midwinter' by Gustav Holst, who is buried in the north transept.

BBC RADIO



Sir Harry Secombe with his personal selection of music with a Dickensian theme.

**Christmas at Chichester 7.33-9.30pm (continued)**

Also featured in the programme are seasonal readings of poems and prose by writers such as Charles Dickens, the Reverend Francis Kilvert and Robert Herrick.

**Presenters/Christopher Timothy, Roger Royle, Producer/Tim McDonald**

10.03-11.00pm

**A Dickens of a Christmas**

Sir Harry Secombe, who stars in the new production of 'Pickwick' at the Bristol Hippodrome over Christmas, presents a selection of music with a Dickensian theme.

"Dickens and Christmas go together," says Sir Harry. "I will be enjoying a typically 'Dickensian Christmas' with my wife Myra, our four children, and four grandchildren, Harriet, Emily, Sam and Florence. After the matinee on Christmas Eve I will be returning home to Surrey to a house decked with holly and mistletoe. This year will be particularly special as it will be Florence's first Christmas. Born in May, she is the spitting image of Myra!"

Sir Harry's Dickensian history goes back a long way and the musical 'Pickwick' - based on Dickens's 'Pickwick Papers' - was written especially for him 30 years ago by Wolf Mankowitz. Lesley Bricusse penned the words and Cyril Ornadel wrote the music. Sir Harry also played the role of Bumble the Beadle in the award-winning film 'Oliver'!

The new production of 'Pickwick' the musical has enjoyed a triumphant run since its premiere at this year's Chichester festival and next year will be touring overseas. Amongst the music in tonight's programme is the hit song from the musical 'If I Ruled the World.'

**Presenter/Sir Harry Secombe, Producer/Alan Boyd**

11.03pm-12.00midnight

**Carols by Candlelight**

From the candle-lit setting of York Minster's 13th century Chapter House, Alan Sykes presents both old and new 'Carols by Candlelight' performed by the Chapter House Choir, with organist John Scott-Whiteley conducted by Musical Director, Jane Sturmheit.

**Presenter/Alan Sykes, Producer/Bob McDowall, BBC Pebble Mill**

1.02-1.20pm

**Table Talk: The Indian Spice Trail**

*Last in Series*

Leslie Forbes travels north-east from Delhi to explore how spices have been integrated into every aspect of Indian life from its medicine, to its music and gods to conclude her journey along 'The Indian Spice Trail'.

There are around 36,000 Hindu gods - many of them gourmets. Krishna likes coconut rice with mustard seeds and ginger on his birthday; the elephant-headed god Ganesh likes cardamom-scented sweets; and the strange, dark Dravidian goddesses sitting under Kerala's coconut trees are said to like India's oldest spice, plain pepper.

Alan Sykes at York Minster to present this selection of old and new carols by candlelight.

BBC RADIO



Leslie Forbes in north-east India.



**BBC RADIO**



Second chance to hear Luciano Pavarotti talk to David Mellor in New York.

The classical buffs battle it out.

Bryn Terfel and James Morris star in this Met production of Mozart's greatest opera.

**Table Talk: The Indian Spice Trail 1.02-1.20pm (continued)**

Even elephants, normally herbivorous, share in the exotic tastes of India. An elephant-mad photographer tells Leslie how, during the monsoon, elephants are fed meat in the form of enormous biryanis of goats' brains pounded up in rice and ginger, considered to be good for their sensitive skins - undoubtedly an important consideration, when the prestige of a religious festival is measured by the number of temple elephants that attend.

**Producer/Matt Thompson**

**3.00-5.00pm**

**Vintage Years with David Mellor**

*Repeat Broadcast*

In January, David Mellor went to New York to meet Luciano Pavarotti, who at the age of 59 was singing Verdi's 'I Lombardi' for the first time at the Metropolitan Opera. In Pavarotti's apartment they talked for just under an hour about the great tenors of the past, tenors whose singing - heard on his father's 78s and the family radio, at the cinema and the opera-house - fired the young Pavarotti with a love for his future art.

Today's edition of 'Vintage Years' is another chance to hear this exclusive interview, in which Pavarotti analyses the spell the great tenors still cast over him and his fellow singers and opera-lovers.

**Presenter/David Mellor, Producer/Nick Morgan**

**5.45-6.30pm**

**Christmas Quiz**

Jeremy J Beadle dons his quiz master's hat to chair the entertaining contest between two teams of guests from the classical music world in the annual Radio 3 'Christmas Quiz'. (The programme is repeated at 12.15pm on Christmas Day.)

**Producer/Tony Cheevers**

**6.30-10.00pm**

**Live from the Met: Don Giovanni**

*Live Opera*

The highlight of Christmas Eve on Radio 3 is the live relay of Mozart's 'Don Giovanni' from the New York Metropolitan Opera, starring Bryn Terfel as Leporello, James Morris as Don Giovanni, Sharon Sweet as Donna Anna, and Patricia Schuman as Donna Elvira.

Considered by many to be Mozart's greatest opera, it relates the story of how the libertine and blasphemer, Don Giovanni, whose main purpose in life is to seduce women, gets his just reward.

Commissioned for the opera in Prague, where 'Figaro' had just been a sensational success, 'Don Giovanni' was first performed in 1787. It owes part of its popularity to the unique blending of the comic and the serious as much as to the speed of its dramatic and musical action and to the quality of the music. The other decisive factor in its success is the fascinating figure of the Don himself, whose courage endears him to the men and his scandalous reputation to the women.

**Producer/Clive Bennett**

BBC RADIO



9.30-10.00am

### **Breakaway**

Julian Pettifer won't be dreaming of a white Christmas - he's out in the wineries of the Hunter Valley in Australia, raising a glass in a festive toast in the sunshine, to report for 'Breakaway'.

**Presenter/Eddie Mair, Producer/Jill Thomas**

11.02-11.30am

### **Just a Minute**

Nicholas Parsons chairs a seasonal edition of 'Just a Minute' with regulars Peter Jones, Clement Freud and Derek Nimmo with special guest, Stephen Fry.

**Producer/Ann Jobson**

12.00 noon-12.25pm

### **The Heritage Quiz**

'The Heritage Quiz' returns to Radio 4 on Christmas Eve for the first of two special festive editions.

The traditional British Christmas - the carols, the tree, the invention of the cracker - originates from the Victorian era, and in keeping with this spirit, the programme comes from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Sue MacGregor diverts from current affairs on the 'Today' programme to challenge the panellists with questions on cultural inheritance, whatever has endured from the past to enrich the present. Facing the questions are the two regular team captains, Phillippa Gregory, the historical novelist, and arts broadcaster, Christopher Cook. They are joined by team-mates Maxwell Hutchinson, architect and writer, and Denise Coffey, actress, director and writer. The architectural historian John Grundy will again try to baffle the panellists with his offbeat description of a heritage site somewhere in the United Kingdom.

**Presenter/Sue MacGregor, Producer/Gillian Hush, BBC North**

1.10-1.55pm

### **With Great Pleasure Christmas Special**

Jeremy Paxman presents his favourite pieces of writing in front of an invited audience at the Paris Theatre, London.

He shows another side of his personality with his choices, which include poetry from Dorothy Parker, Brian Patten and John Donne. There's advice to the young journalist from Nicholas Tomalin; part of Winston Churchill's speech on the death of Neville Chamberlain and an extract from Paxman's new anthology, 'Fish, Fishing and the Meaning of Life'.

Jeremy Paxman reveals almost all on Christmas Eve, with readers Bill Wallis, Alice Arnold and Christian Rodska to smooth the way.

**Presenter/Jeremy Paxman, Producer/Viv Beeby, BBC Bristol**

Sue MacGregor poses the heritage teasers.

Jeremy Paxman reveals his softer side with a prose selection that includes Dorothy Parker, Brian Patten and John Donne.

BBC RADIO



Dame Diana Rigg and Sir Dirk Bogarde recreate this Hans Christian Andersen classic.

2.02-3.00pm

### **The Snow Queen**

Dame Diana Rigg and Sir Dirk Bogarde star in a new dramatisation of the Hans Christian Andersen classic, 'The Snow Queen', part of Radio 4's Christmas drama of stories for all the family.

When Kay is caught in the frosty toils of the cold-hearted Snow Queen, his friend Gerda journeys to the far north to rescue her playmate.

The Snow Queen is played by Diana Rigg and the two children by Samantha Glen and James Cohen, both of whom study at the Sylvia Young Theatre School. Dirk Bogarde is the narrator.

The comedy in the story is provided by the characters Gerda meets on her journey. The Robber Queen who has a beard and turns somersaults to amuse her robber band, is played by Peter Woodthorpe in the tradition of pantomime dames and the Robber Queen's daughter is played by Emma Wray, star of ITV's 'Watching'. Bill Paterson, whom you would usually find in a starring role, here plays a talking reindeer, Baa Baa and husband and wife couple Paul Copley and Natasha Pyne are the Yorkshire Crow and the Crow's Sweetheart.

'The Snow Queen' has been dramatised for radio by Berlie Doherty.

**Director/Janet Whitaker**

Traditional Christmas service.

3.02-4.30pm

### **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Always a part of the Christmas tradition, Radio 4 broadcasts 'A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols' live from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. A recording of the complete service is broadcast at 4.00pm on Christmas Day on Radio 3.

Among the highlights is a first performance of 'The Angels' by Jonathan Harvey, specially commissioned by King's College for this service. The music also includes 'The Holly and the Ivy', arranged by H Walford Davies, 'Sussex Carol', arranged by David Willcocks and Byttering's 'Nesciens Mater', from the 15th century Old Hall Manuscripts.

The hymns sung by the congregation include 'Once in Royal David's City', 'It Came Upon The Midnight Clear', 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.

The Director of Music is Stephen Cleobury and the Organ Scholar is James Vivian.

**Producer/James Whitbourn, BBC North**

Robert Robinson tries his hand at conjuring.

4.30-5.00pm

### **Ad Lib**

Robert Robinson works his own magic as he gets together with some contemporary conjurors to discover why audiences are still fascinated by visual illusion for a special Christmas 'Ad Lib'.

Entertainers or conmen? That's one question Robert will be addressing as he tries to draw aside the profession's veil of secrecy, asking where the mystery is in the sleight of hand when information on how to do tricks can be freely found in the high street.

**Presenter/Robert Robinson, Producer/Nadine Grieve**



BBC RADIO



Sparkling revue  
inspired by  
Shakespeare and  
written by the likes of  
Victoria Wood and  
Stephen Fry with an  
RSC cast.

5.00-5.30pm

### **The Royal Shakespeare Company in The Shakespeare Review**

Earlier this year Malcolm McKee and Christopher Luscombe came together to devise a show for the RSC which would be an entertainment featuring the very best comic material inspired by Shakespeare.

The end result is a sparkling revue which has been a sell-out at The Swan Theatre in Stratford and The Pit in London. Ranging from the sharply satirical to the broadly comic it embraces poetry, prose, sketches and songs by an assortment of writers which include Victoria Wood, Patrick Barlow, Bernard Levin, Cole Porter, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, Frank Muir and Dennis Norden, Caryl Brahms and Ned Sherrin, Richmal Crompton, Noel Coward and many others.

In front of an audience at Pebble Mill, Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee and other members of the RSC - Abigail McKern, David Delve and Debra Gillet - celebrate the rumour and reminiscences that surround the Bard of Avon and his work.

**Director/Sue Wilson, BBC Pebble Mill**

Is Santa coming to the  
Big Apple? Mark Steyn  
tries to find out.

6.40-7.20pm

### **Christmas Card From Gotham**

Who is that jolly, bearded character saying "Ho!" by the Christmas tree in New York's Rockefeller Centre? Why, of course - it's Mark Steyn, gearing up for a festive edition of the news and gossip show from the Big Apple.

Mark's joined by home-maker Martha Stewart, the Radio City Rockettes and the singing Von Trapp family, to see if Santa Claus is coming to town. And if he isn't, then maybe Mark will go to Santa - Santa Claus, Indiana, that is.

**Presenter/Mark Steyn, Producer/Hamish Mykura**

Service live from Wells  
Cathedral led by Dean  
of Wells with a Bishop  
of Bath and Wells  
sermon.

11.30pm-1.30am

### **Midnight Mass**

'Midnight Mass' comes live from Wells Cathedral, in a service led by the Dean of Wells, the Very Reverend Richard Lewis.

The sermon is given by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Right Reverend James Lawton Thompson, a regular 'Thought for the Day' contributor. The communion setting is Haydn's 'Little Organ Mass' and hymns include 'O Come All ye Faithful', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'It came Upon the Midnight Clear'.

**Producer/Claire Campbell-Smith, BBC North**

BBC RADIO



12.00-7.00am

### **Test Match Special**

David Gower and Trevor Bailey open the expert batting for the 'TMS' team on Christmas Eve when they give their views on the first day's play in England's second Test against Australia. Jonathan Agnew heads the commentary team at Melbourne, joined by Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Neville Oliver and Peter Baxter - who also produces 'TMS'.

**Presenter/Jonathan Agnew, Producer/Peter Baxter**

**BBC RADIO**



Shock horror, Father Christmas is really an ad man's dream!

Ian Payne reviews the year and presents live commentary from Stirling Albion v Brechin City.

Enjoy Echobelly and Imran Khan's revelations about ball tampering.

A radio first, Jerusalem, Oman, Cairo and Jericho link up and Liz Barclay reports on the hopes and fears of the people of the Middle East live from Jerusalem.

11.05-11.35am

### **Yule Never Believe This!**

*New Series*

Ted Harrison starts his series on festive facts, myths and surprises by revealing that Father Christmas was actually the product of an American advertiser's dream!

Until the Thirties Santa was represented by a series of images - some had him dressed in green, in other pictures he was seen wearing a crown of holly. It was only when an advertising artist working for Coca-Cola created a white-bearded character dressed in red that the Santa we know today was born. (A full feature to accompany this series can be found in the feature's section at the front of Radio Press Information, week 52)

**Presenter, Producer/Ted Harrison**

1.05-6.00pm

### **Sport on Five**

Ian Payne looks back at the sporting year in a wide ranging review of 12 months achievements in athletics, cricket, golf, rugby, football, boxing, motor racing and horse racing.

There's only one league fixture - Stirling Albion play Brechin City in the Scottish League, and Ian will have full coverage. In Wales, there's a full afternoon of rugby union action in the Heineken League.

**Presenter/Ian Payne, Producer/Graeme Reid Davies**

9.05-9.35pm

### **Asian Perspective**

Mohit Dutta mixes a heady cocktail of highlights from the 'Asian Perspective' this evening when he recalls talking to Imran Khan in his first interview after the ball-tampering admissions and the Labour Party membership row in Birmingham which threatened to escalate into a boycott of the party.

Also hear singer Sonya Aurora-Madan and her band Echobelly who have been tipped by the music press as the next "big thing".

**Presenter/Mohit Dutta, Producer/Dil Neiyar**

12.00 midnight-2.00am

### **Jerusalem Live**

As the season of peace and goodwill begins, Liz Barclay reports live from Jerusalem and neighbouring Bethlehem to find out the hopes and fears of the people behind the headlines in the Middle East.

The programme will kick off by linking up on radio for the first time ever Jerusalem, Oman, Cairo and Jericho, where the new Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation is based. Throughout the two hours, the programme will be joining Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian radio both to eavesdrop on their Christmas celebrations and to catch up on the news as broadcast in English on all three stations.

Helping to capture the mood of Christmas in the Holy Land will be co-presenter Yossi Alfi from Israeli Radio and Daniella Khalaf from the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

**BBC RADIO**



Rhod Sharp becomes Santa Sharp as he dips into Christmas celebrations around the world.

**Jerusalem Live** 12.00 midnight-2.00am (continued)

Back in Jerusalem, Liz and her team of presenters and correspondents will be talking to the different Christian groups that share this small strip of holy space, and discovering why Christmas comes but three times a year in Jerusalem. There will also be regular reports from Manger Square in Bethlehem with news of the first baby born in Bethlehem on Christmas morning.

**Presenters/Liz Barclay, Yossi Alfí, Daniella Khalaf, Producer/Peter Weil, Barraclough Carey North Productions**

2.05-6.00am

**Up All Night**

It really is "up all night" in this high-flying Christmas edition. Rhod Sharp takes on the role of Santa as he travels through the airwaves to dip into Christmas celebrations around the world. And there is the chance to hear the highlights of radio and aviation journalist Sean Maffet's epic journey half-way around the world in a replica Vickers Vimy open-cockpit biplane bomber.

**Presenter/Rhod Sharp, Editor/Simon Waldman**



**BBC RADIO**



**4.00-7.00pm**  
**The UK Top 40**

For the first time ever, the UK Top 40 is unveiled on Christmas Day itself, counting every record in every Christmas stocking from sales up to closing time on Christmas Eve. What will be the Christmas Number One? Bruno Brookes unveils the nation's chart topper just before 7.00pm.

**Presenter/Bruno Brookes, Producer/Ivor Etienne**

**10.00pm-12.00 midnight**  
**Andy Kershaw's Christmas Show**

Featuring Johnny Cash, the undisputed giant of American country music, with the first airing of his performance at the Glastonbury Festival earlier this year.

**Presenter/Andy Kershaw, Producer/Mikes Hawkes**

**BBC RADIO**



**8.03-10.00am**  
**Good Morning Christmas**

Don Maclean invites a host of celebrity guests to his home in Solihull to say 'Good Morning Christmas'.

Sir Edward Heath will be dropping by for a chat and giving him some musical backing are the Hall Green Salvation Army Band and the Audrey Mattis Chorale.

Don's pantomime partners from 'Jack and the Beanstalk', playing at the Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham, will join the party and there will be a few more Christmas surprises during the morning. The programme will link up live with the 'Songs of Praise Christmas Special' on BBC-1 at 10.00am.

**Presenter/Don Maclean, Producer/Michael Wakelin BBC North**

**10.10am-12 noon**  
**Ken Bruce**

To celebrate the festive season, Ken Bruce plays Christmas dedications, greetings and the pick of the season's best songs.

**Presenter/Ken Bruce, Producer/Paul Walters**

**Phillip Schofield**  
narrates.

**2.03-2.58pm**  
**Phillip Schofield Reads Joseph**

*Repeat Broadcast*

Phillip Schofield narrates 'Joseph and His Coat of Many Colours' with music from the original West End production of 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

**Presenter/Phillip Schofield, Producer/Brian Stephens**

**Robert Hardy with the**  
story of the Christmas  
truce.

**3.03-4.00pm**  
**The Christmas Truce**

On 25 December 1914, the first Christmas of the Great War, Allied and German troops along the Western Front called a temporary ceasefire, exchanged gifts and played football in no-man's land. This is the story of the Christmas truce as seen from both sides of the trenches and is narrated by Robert Hardy. (TBC)

**Narrator/Robert Hardy, Producer/Graham Pass**

BBC RADIO



Gala Christmas  
Concert from the Tower  
Ballroom, Blackpool.

6.30-7.00pm

### The Huddlines Bumper Christmas Annual

Join Roy, Chris and June as they unwrap a selection pack of their favourite Christmas crackers in a special edition of 'The News Huddlines'. Musical accompaniment from Peter Moss and his West Lothian Reindeer Tickling Quartet.

**Presenters/Roy Hudd, Chris Emmett and June Whitfield, Producer/Phil Bowker**

8.30-9.00pm

### Sunday Half Hour

Roger Royle and John Marsh present a gala Christmas concert from the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, with massed choirs from Lancashire schools and featuring BBC Radio 2 'Choir Girl of the Year', Fiona Wight. Carols include 'Once in Royal David's City', 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night', 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'Silent Night'.

**Presenters/Roger Royle and John Marsh, Producer/Clair Jaquiss**

A welcome alternative  
from carols!

11.03pm-12.00midnight

### Steve Jones Christmas Night

For all those who can't sing another Christmas carol, Steve Jones plays some of the best contemporary music featured on Radio 2 throughout the year mixed with some classic pop hits.

**Presenter/Steve Jones, Producer/Nick Hirst**

BBC RADIO



Traditional service  
from Kings.

4.00-5.40pm

### A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

A favourite part of the Christmas tradition is Radio 3's broadcast of 'A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols' from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. (The service goes out live on Radio 4 on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm.)

Among the highlights is a first performance of 'The Angels' by Jonathan Harvey, specially commissioned by King's College for this service. The music also includes 'The Holly and the Ivy', arranged by H. Walford Davies, 'Sussex Carol', arranged by David Willcocks and Byttering's 'Nesciens Mater' from the 15th century Old Hall Manuscript.

The hymns sung by the congregation include 'Once in Royal David's City', 'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear', 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.

The Director of Music is Stephen Cleobury and the Organ Scholar is James Vivian.

**Producer/James Whitbourn**

Laugh at the antics of  
Boswell, Johnson and  
Garrick with Simon  
Callow, John Sessions  
and Maria Altin.  
Scripts by Snoo Wilson  
and a festive collection  
of poetry rounds off  
the evening.

7.30-10.10pm

### Doctor Johnson's Christmas

An evening of plays and other delights devised and written by Mr Snoo Wilson.

The entertainment begins with the play, 'Poonsh', first broadcast last year, starring Simon Callow as Dr Johnson, John Sessions as David Garrick, and Linda Marlowe as Tetty Johnson. In the play, Samuel Johnson is only up to the letters A and B in his dictionary, his wife's demands for opium and punch are exhausting him and drops in his ears have set an orchestra jangling in his head, but David Garrick is there to help...

BBC RADIO



**Doctor Johnson's Christmas 7.30-10.10pm (continued)**

'Poonsh' is followed by 'an entr'acte' - a Yuletide Interlude, by command of Mr Garrick, of duration about the same length as there was Silence in Heaven after the opening of the Seventh Seal: that is to say, half an hour. In it Mr Snoo Wilson takes a party of guests at Mr Garrick's behest up the Thames to Kew for Christmas.

In the second play of the evening, 'The Good Doctor', featuring the same main cast, Doctor Johnson's Life, Dictionary and Journeys are coming to an end. In other words, he is dying and his competing biographers Boswell and Mrs Thrale (Maria Aitken) elbow each other on their way into his presence. But Mrs Thrale has the advantage of the torture chamber - and will be waiting for him with a heavenly chorus when the time comes...

'Dr Johnson's Christmas' ends with a festive motley of poetry and prose celebrating the pleasures of a pre-Victorian Christmas, including recipes for delight, turkey and boar's head.

The music is composed, realised and directed by Lou Glandfield.

**Producer/Ned Chaillet**

BBC RADIO



9.00-9.05am

**H M The Queen**

Her Majesty the Queen delivers her traditional Christmas message to the Commonwealth.

**Producer/Irene Mallis**

12.15-12.55pm

**Desert Island Discs**

David Jason picks his "perfick" selection of records to while away the time on the famous desert island.

One of Britain's best-loved actors, David created two of television's most popular characters in the avuncular Pop Larkin from 'The Darling Buds of May' and amiable wide-boy Del from 'Only Fools and Horses'. He received a BAFTA for his role in 'Porterhouse Blue' and most recently won acclaim for his portrayal of Inspector Frost.

He talks to Sue Lawley about these and other roles as well as choosing his eight records, book and luxury as the Christmas castaway.

**Presenter/Sue Lawley, Producer/Olivia Seligman**

2.45-3.45pm

**The Twelve Days of Christmas**

Twelve-year old Kayley Iannucci lives at the end of the pier with her family who run an ice-cream parlour. Their rivals are the Rowbottoms who run the seaside rock shop but Kayley has a crush on their son Ricky and decides to use her mum's mail order catalogue to send him gifts for the 12 days of Christmas, as in the song.

DJ Lemn Sissay takes a starring role on Radio Rack and Ruin, all part of the entertainment, in Bryony Lavery's play about the 12 days of Christmas with a twist.

BBC RADIO



**The Twelve Days of Christmas** 2.45-3.45pm (continued)

Her local radio station, Radio Rack and Ruin is dedicated to saving the planet and is running a Christmas special with DJ Lemn Sissay's attempt to air-lift the world's most endangered species to safety. Meanwhile in Sakkertoppen, Santa Claus is suffering from 'Jollity Over-Giving Burnout' and is having a breakdown. Jane Dawson plays Kayley, Joseph Vickers is Ricky, Neil Dudgeon is his father Ronald, Robin Soans is Santa Claus and Lemn Sissay plays himself. 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' is written by Bryony Lavery.

**Director/Claire Grove**

3.45-4.30pm

**Pick of the Year**

Chris Serle juggles the gems of 1994's radio and television to present his 'Pick of the Picks'.

**Presenter/Chris Serle, Producer/Jane Ray**

4.30-5.00pm

**Dear Diary**

Oldest surviving Bloomsbury member and diarist, Frances Partridge selects diary entries made on December 25, giving a vivid picture of Christmas Day through the centuries. She is joined by readers Sean Barrett and June Barrie.

**Producer/Sue Roberts, BBC Bristol**

5.30-5.50pm

**Poetry Please!**

Gareth Owen celebrates with the winners of the 'BBC Radio 4 Young Poetry Competition' and the Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition. The programme will be eavesdropping on the deliberations of the judges, chaired by Roger McGough and will be joining in the presentation ceremony at the Watershed in Bristol.

**Presenter/Gareth Owen, Producer/Viv Beeby, BBC Bristol**

6.05-6.30pm

**Ninety Not Out**

*New Series*

Ned Sherrin talks to A L Rowse in the first of a new series of anecdotal conversations with nonagenarians who were, or still are, prominent in their particular field.

Rowse, the controversial Oxford historian, Shakespeare scholar and noted eccentric, recalls the highs and lows of his 92 turbulent years and reminisces on memorable encounters with such historical figures as Churchill, Atlee, Nixon and Agatha Christie.

**Presenter/Ned Sherrin, Producer/Michael Ember Productions**

6.30-7.00pm

**Children's Radio 4: A Child's Christmas in Wales**

Dylan Thomas's timeless evocation of Christmas has been dramatised by Herbert Williams and stars Freddie Jones as Old Jim and Philip Madoc as Old Wil.

Frances Partridge presents her diary selection from Christmas Days past.

Young poetry winners celebrate.

Ned Sherrin talks to A L Rowse, the controversial Oxford historian.

Freddie Jones and Philip Madoc star in Dylan Thomas's timeless evocation of Christmas.



**BBC RADIO**



**Children's Radio 4: A Child's Christmas in Wales 6.30-7.00pm (continued)**

Wil and Jim look back to the boyhood escapades and the Christmasses of long ago; the presents bought, wrapped and unwrapped, the arrival of Aunties and Uncles and the adventures to be had. Like the time they snowballed the Prothero's living room to put out a fire before the fire brigade (and Ernie Jenkins who liked fires) could arrive.

Dylan Thomas was a former pupil of Swansea Boys Grammar School, which three of the child actors in this production come from.

The cast includes Alun Horan as Young Wil, Owen Pillai as Young Jim and Victoria Plunket as Mrs Prothero/Auntie Bessie.

**Director/Foz Allan, BBC Wales**

**7.00-7.30pm**

**Shoot the Turkey**

Simon Rae takes a critical look at the festival of consumerism and Dickensian sentimentality that has become the modern Christmas. Interviews, poems, archive material and comedy routines provide a commentary that exposes the absurdities of expenditure and consumption that are the hallmark of the festivity.

**Presenter/Simon Rae, Producer/Paul Dodgson, BBC Bristol**

**10.35-11.00pm**

**God's Secret Agents**

All cultures have their own angels - from the tubby cherubs of the Renaissance to the "hidden saints" of Judaism - all intermediaries between people and God. In a festive montage programme for Christmas Day, people who have had contact with 'God's Secret Agents' share their stories.

Throughout history, angels have undergone transmutations from innocent cherubs to angels of destruction, guardians and satanic fallen angels, even sex changes. But who or what are they? Poetry and prose from angel-watchers and angel-experts attempts to illuminate this strange phenomenon.

**Producer/Amanda Hancox, BBC North**

**11.45pm-12.00 midnight**

**Down to Earth**

Nigel Forde and the Riding Lights Theatre Company explore the bewildering beauty and humour of Christmas in 'Down to Earth', a special meditation for Christmas Night on Radio 4.

The Riding Lights Theatre Company is a group of professional actors and actresses, who are Christians, who introduce their innovative dramatic methods to church services and theatres around the country. They aim to encourage Christians to think critically about themselves and the relevance of the Gospel.

Nigel Forde, the former presenter of Radio 4's 'Bookshelf', joins them on stage as they perform sketches, combined with poetry and music, which reflect the strangeness and wonder of the Christmas story - but also its comical, human side - in a tender, humorous and poignant interpretation of the Christmas message.

**Presenter/Nigel Forde, Producer/Kathryn Pritchard, BBC North**

Has Christmas had its day?

Poetry and prose from angel watchers.

Special meditation on Christmas courtesy of Nigel Forde and the Riding Lights Theatre Company.

**BBC RADIO**



Go wild in Egypt with Jon Ridgeon and Diane Youdale.

Reports on a lady vicar's first Christmas Day service, and Simon Calder's views on South Africa plus Essex school children swap their turkey fare for a plate of curry.

Robin Lustig recalls personalities who were under the 'Spotlight' this year.

6.05-7.00am

### Hot Pursuits Special

Dreaming of a wild Christmas? Let former international hurdler Jon Ridgeon and Diane Youdale, alias Jet from 'The Gladiators', transport you to Egypt for an action-packed stay by the Red Sea.

They burn off the excesses of the festive season by sampling scuba diving, snorkelling, horse riding through the desert and windsurfing.

The pair travelled to the village of Jasmine, four hours from Luxor, for this Christmas special. Diane said: "I can't think of anywhere better to wake up on Christmas morning - with the sun shining and so many sports to try out".

**Presenters/Diane Youdale, Jon Ridgeon, Producer/Helen Stiles**

7.00-9.05am

### The Breakfast Programme

Reach for your stockings and open your presents to the sound of Julian Worricker this Christmas morning. Find out if it's time to dust off the sledge with Philip Eden's weather watch, and follow his Scrooge guide to the worst Christmas weather in pastimes. At 7.15am, the Radio 5 Live 'Test Match Special' commentary team will bring the latest results from the day's play in Australia.

Christmas Day highlights include 'live' interviews with Christmas Day workers, an interview with a lady vicar as she prepares to take her first Christmas service and the newspaper reviewers' 'Review of the Year'.

Throughout the Christmas week, 'The Breakfast Programme' will also be featuring a series of interviews with people who have made the headlines throughout the year. Follow the progress of travel writer Simon Calder as he takes off from Gatwick on Christmas day on his way to South Africa from where he will make daily reports. And find out how members of an Essex school have chosen to swap their traditional roast turkey for a plate of curry as part of their endeavour to build a community centre for an Indian village.

Will it be Take That or Cliff Richard who top the global charts for Christmas? Find out when each day a BBC correspondent turns DJ and introduces the Christmas Number One from their patch.

Listen out for the series of regional snapshots presented by local celebrities and hear from the pantomime stars playing Wishy Washy in 'Aladdins' across the country.

**Presenter/Julian Worricker, Producer/David Gordon**

9.05-10.05am

### Spotlight '94

Robin Lustig takes a look back at some of the people who've been in the news spotlight during 1994.

Likely candidates who have already featured in the 'Spotlight' slot throughout the year include Leader of the RMT Jimmy Knapp and Bob Horton, Chairman of Railtrack.

BBC RADIO



**Spotlight '94 9.05-10.05am (continued)**

A former school friend of the young Jimmy Knapp recalled that he was, once, "a good-looking wee lad", but hasn't "aged too well". Whilst recollections of Bob Horton included a dramatic tale from a man who saved Horton from drowning when he was just four years old and an account from a former colleague at BP who had a memo returned to him from Horton with just one word written across it - "Bollocks". Major Ron Ferguson also got a look in when women lined up to testify to the "twinkle in his eye".

**Presenter/ Robin Lustig, Producer/Palace Radio**

10.05-11.00am

**The Ad Break Christmas Special**

What happens to advertising, PR and the media at Christmas? Do they just add a frosty border and hope for the best? Does it work? 'The Ad Break' investigates this and other aspects of the commerciality of Christmas.

Expect a stocking crammed full of features ranging from how Coca-Cola changed the face of yuletide cheer to the success of ad campaigns aimed at getting bums on pews and rescuing Christmas from the heathen claws of commerce.

What's the best present you could ever give someone? How do you choose who to give which present to? and On the Shelf asks whether anyone still kisses under the mistletoe or puts silver in their Christmas pud.

There will be an interview with dramatist John Godber on how an advertising firm's Christmas party inspired him to write a play and two top creative teams battle it out to promote Christmas in June!

**Presenters, Producers /Fiona Glover, Richard Kilgariff**

11.05-11.35am

**Yule Never Believe This!**

The presents are opened and you're looking forward to your turkey and pud... but are you sure it's really Christmas Day? No, you haven't turned over too many days on your calendar - it's certainly December 25. But as Ted Harrison reveals, we may be celebrating Christ's birth on the wrong day - and even at the wrong time of year.

**Presenter, Producer/Ted Harrison**

11.35am-12.05pm

**Special Assignment: Heritage Quiz**

Jeremy Vine takes a look at Britain's National Heritage - in particular The Three Graces and the National Theatre and asks, are these monuments fit to be a part of our National Heritage? Joining him in the debate will be an expert panel including Anthony Everitt, Secretary General to the Arts Council and Anna Somer-Cocks, Editor-in-Chief of the Art Newspaper, and five members of the general public.

**Presenter/Jeremy Vine, Producer/Jane Beresford**

What do ad agencies do at Christmas?

Ted Harrison reveals how we may be celebrating Christmas on the wrong day.

Jeremy Vine debates Britain's art heritage.

**BBC RADIO**



**Stirling Moss and other celebrities on their earliest motoring memories.**

**A special Christmas report on streakers.**

**Alton Byrd looks back on America's sporting year.**

**Live from Jerusalem.**

**1.05-1.35pm**

### **Top Gear**

In a special Christmas Day edition, Stirling Moss and other celebrities reveal their earliest motoring memories. There's an off-beat, humorous look at car music - the type of music people listen to as they cruise down the high street in the sunshine with their window open or what music lovers would choose to play if they reversed into the gate of a field late in the evening!

Steve Berry will also be looking back at the highlights of the show since it was first broadcast on Radio 5 Live in September.

**Presenter/Steve Berry, Producer/Mark Hollings**

**1.35-2.00pm**

### **On The Line**

Was the 'art' of streaking just a flash in the pan? A topless streak at Lord's launched Susan Knowles as a Page Three Girl. Madcap Tony Buckmaster brought smiles to the Royal Box when he did a naked gallop at Ascot.

Redhead Sheila Nichols bowled over cricket fans when she made a naked dash past England all-rounder Ian Botham and Erica Rowe started the whole business off when she streaked at Twickenham during an England International and won worldwide headlines and press coverage.

Why do streakers do it? Has the phenomenon has its day? 'On The Line' reveals all in this Christmas stocking filler.

**Presenter/tbc, Producer/Vyv Simpson**

**5.05-6.00pm**

### **SportsAmerica Review Of The Year**

Alton Byrd looks back on a momentous year in American sport - faithfully chronicled each week in his acclaimed 'SportsAmerica' series.

Sport was torn apart by two major strikes. Both baseball and ice hockey were hit by players' walk-outs. America hosted the World Cup and although there were no British representatives, Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland heroes caught the imagination of the British in an extravaganza which won huge worldwide acclaim and huge worldwide TV and radio audiences.

**Presenter/Alton Byrd, Producer/Rob Smith**

**9.05-11.05pm**

### **Jerusalem Live**

Liz Barclay and Daniella Khalaf from the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation present the second of three live programmes from Jerusalem in which they find out how Jews, Christians, Muslims and non-believers have been celebrating Christmas Day.

A special report will look at the role of women in the Middle East, where their traditional roles are beginning to change. Liz will be finding out how the Palestinians are ensuring that women as well as men hold the top jobs, how some Israeli and Arab women are joining together to fight for peace, why the women of Hebron are determined not to leave the West Bank and how Israeli women feel about serving in the army.

**Presenters/Liz Barclay, Daniella Khalaf, Producer/Peter Weil**



**BBC RADIO**



**Chaka Demus and Pliers and more from Jamaica.**

**10.00am-1.00pm**

**Simon Mayo's Caribbean Christmas**

Simon Mayo brings you the best Caribbean music on Boxing Day direct from Jamaica.

Chaka Demus and Pliers, Red Dragon, Junior Reid and Ali Campbell from UB40 will all be performing direct from Sly and Robbie's studios in Jamaica.

Radio 1 will also be linking live to a secret location in Britain where the best British reggae will be played with Aswad, Bitty McLean, Juliet Roberts and chart topper Pato Banton, who topped the charts recently with 'Baby Come Back'.

**Presenter/Simon Mayo, Producer/Chris Watmough**

**9.00-10.00pm**

**Alan Parker's Christmas Special**

Award winning Alan Parker, Urban Warrior, returns to Radio 1FM for this one hour special full of all the traditional festive favourites of politics, punk and class war.

Alan will be subverting everything from turkeys to Cliff Richard in the most radical Christmas show ever.

The music, in a change from '29 minutes of Truth', will be full track length, but will still feature a mixture of punk and Eighties/Nineties chart music together with Christmas favourites.

Listeners will also hear the attempts of Alan's band 'The Truth' to break into the charts with their own seasonal single, 'Radical Presents', and the "real" Christmas of the dispossessed.

**Presenter/Alan Parker, Producer/Aled Evans**

**11.00pm-1.00am**

**The Princes Trust Gala Concert**

*Live Concert*

Radio 1 FM heads for the witching hour with Kylie Minogue, Belinda Carlisle, Joe Cocker, Cliff Richard and a host of other pop celebrities who perform for the benefit of the Prince's Trust.

The concert, presented from the Telecom Tower, links up venues around the country including the Docklands Arena in London; Birmingham, where Joe Cocker is performing, and Glasgow where Cliff Richard is in concert, by using the latest technology. The concert is a simultaneous broadcast with BBC-1.

**Producer/Chris Lycett**

**2.03-3.30pm**

**Gloria Hunniford**

Fiona Armstrong stands in for Gloria for two weeks.

**Presenter/Fiona Armstrong, Producer/Richard Masters**

**6.03-7.30pm**

**Roger Royle**

Roger kicks off Boxing Day with a selection of favourite carols and Christmas music.

**Presenter/Roger Royle, Producer/Bridget Apps**

**BBC RADIO**



**Alan Parker full of festive venom on politics, punk and class war.**

**Kylie, Belinda, Joe and Cliff live in concert.**

**BBC RADIO**



Tommy Eytle and Mona Hammond with a seductive blend of Caribbean rhythms and stories to brighten Boxing Day lunchtime.

**12.03-1.00pm**

**A Caribbean Christmas**

Tommy Eytle and Mona Hammond, alias Jools and Blossom in 'EastEnders', take time off from Albert Square to offer a warm taste of Christmas in the Caribbean with a selection of favourite stories, tasty titbits and rum punch!

Prior to her 'EastEnders' success, Jamaican born Mona had taken on many varied roles over the years from a loo attendant in Central TV's 'About Face' to Lady Macbeth in the Roundhouse production of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. When Tommy Eytle, who plays Jules Tavernier in 'EastEnders', is not acting in the theatre, in films or on TV, he can be found in cabaret, both in London and on the Continent showing off his musical talents. He is a particular favourite in Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Tommy has just finished playing Slow Drag in 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom' at London's National Theatre.

The musical numbers personally selected by Tommy and Mona include 'The Christmas Song' by Nat King Cole, 'The Naughty Little Flea' by Boysie Grant, 'All Night Long' by Lionel Ritchie and 'Air Mail Special' by Charlie Christian. (A full length feature on this programme can be found at the beginning of week 52 RPI.)

**Presenters/Tommy Eytle and Mona Hammond, Producer/Graham Pass**

**5.03-6.00pm**

**The Henry Mancini Tribute**

Lorelei King introduces a tribute to Henry Mancini - the legendary film composer/conductor and arranger who died on 14 June this year. As well as film extracts, music and memories, the programme includes Henry Mancini's last British interview.

Some of Mancini's most memorable movie themes, such as 'Moon River' from 'Breakfast At Tiffany's', 'Baby Elephant Walk' from 'Hatari', 'The Pink Panther Theme' as well as 'Charade', 'W C Fields and Me', 'Days of Wine and Roses' and many more are included in the programme.

**Presenter/Lorelei King, Producer/Barry Littlechild**

**6.03-7.00pm**

**Busby Berkeley: You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet**

The 'Indiana Jones' of the music world, John McGlinn spent a lifetime exploring the world for original and unheard music by the Gershwins. Now he's on the trail of Busby Berkeley.

McGlinn has discovered hand-written music sheets and orchestrations from movie greats such as '42nd Street', 'Gold Diggers of '33' and 'Dames'. Busby had vast orchestras on the set but because of the early optical sound limitations, we never heard a true reproduction. John McGlinn has now re-recorded these last gems in digital stereo with the London Sinfonietta and Chorus.

In tonight's (December 26) programme there's archive interviews with Busby Berkeley and Ruby Keeler together with clips and music from the original films.

**Presenter/Chris Stuart, Producer/Barry Littlechild**

Tribute programme to Henry Mancini which includes his last ever British interview.

John McGlinn on the trail of original and unheard of Busby Berkeley music.

**BBC RADIO**



Benny Green brings this series of Jazz Score to a close.

10.03-10.30pm

**Jazz Score**

*Last in Series*

The final programme in this series of 'Jazz Score' is broadcast from Ronnie Scott's Club in London which celebrates its 35th year as one the most important jazz clubs in the world. Benny Green is in the chair and the teams include Ronnie Scott and George Melly.

**Chairman/Benny Green, Producer/Richard Willcox, Unique Broadcasting**

10.30-11.00pm

**London Calling**

A second chance to hear the four-part comedy series (broadcast Monday to Thursday this week) written by Jimmy Perry, loosely based on fact, about the very start of the BBC.

**Producer/Jo Clegg**

11.03pm-12midnight

**Magic Moments of Perry Como**

Perry Como had his first hit 50 years ago this year was with Jerome Kern and Ira Gershwin's 'Long Ago and Far Away' from the musical 'Cover Girl'. Tonight (December 26), David Jacobs talks to Perry about his highly successful career.

He had 42 top 10 hits in the USA between 1944 and 1958 and 26 top 40 entries in the UK between 1953 and 1974 including 'Don't Let The Stars Get in Your Eyes', 'Catch a Falling Star', 'Love Makes The World Go Round', 'It's Impossible', 'More' and 'Magic Moments'. Perry also talks about his many films including 'Doll Face', 'If I'm Lucky', 'Something For The Boys' and his weekly variety television show

**Presenter/David Jacobs, Producer/Madeleine Cuming**

9.00-10.00am

**Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov**

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Rimsky-Korsakov's birth, Radio 3 sets out on an exploration of his fantastic world.

"His special contribution to music is the evocation of a fantastic world, half-real, half-supernatural, as distinctive and delightful as the world of the Grimm's fairy-tales or Alice's Wonderland," says musicologist Gerald Abraham.

Rimsky-Korsakov is 'Composer of the Week' this week, giving listeners another chance to hear the series from Christmas 1991, with pieces introduced by narrations of the fairy-tales and legends that inspired them - from the Arabian Nights in 'Sheherazade' to poetry and prose by Pushkin and Gogol in the operas 'Tsar Saltan', 'The Golden Cockerel' and 'May Night'.

In today's edition his orchestral works 'Skazka' ('Fairy Tale') and 'Antar' are introduced by the Pushkin poem and the Arabian legend which inspired them, narrated by Joanna Wake.

**Producer/David Gallagher**

**BBC RADIO**



Exploration of the the fantastic world of Rimsky-Korsakov.

**BBC RADIO**



**BBC Singers perform  
Christmas music by  
Bach, Bax, Byrd,  
Victoria and Poulenc.**

**1.02-1.50pm**

### **Christmas Music from Oxford**

David Angus conducts the BBC Singers in a programme of Christmas music, recorded earlier this month in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford.

They begin the concert with J S Bach's 'Singet dem Herrn' for double choir, and continue with three earlier motets: two settings of 'O Magnum Mysterium', by Byrd and Victoria, and in between, Sweelinck's 'Hodie Christus natus est'. The final two pieces in the programme are from the 20th century: Arnold Bax's 'I Sing of a Maiden' and the popular 'Four Christmas Motets' by Francis Poulenc.

**Producer/Michael Emery**

**Chopin interpreters on  
Chopin.**

**6.45-7.30pm**

### **Speaking of Chopin...A Pianists' View**

Have you ever wondered how today's foremost pianists approach the music they play? In this fascinating five-part series, broadcast throughout this week, noted interpreters of Chopin's music talk about what goes on in their minds - and in their hands and legs - when they sit down to play Chopin.

Such distinguished pianists as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Nikolai Demindenko, Fou Ts'ong, Mitsuko Uchida, Michael Roll and Bernard D'Ascoli talk to Jeremy Siepmann, many of them illustrating their points at the piano.

Each of the five programmes in the series addresses particular questions:

Today's programme asks the experts: Is Chopin a Classic or a Romantic composer? What are the general moods, effects and pitch you aim to achieve? Tomorrow (27 December at 6.15-7.00pm) they look at Chopin, the keyboard revolutionary - just how hard is the music to play? What kind of touch do you need?

On Wednesday, (28 December at 7.00-7.45pm), the programme considers how to cope with Chopin's "singing" style; how far do you go down the rubato road? And how fast should it all go? On Thursday, (29 December at 8.00-8.45pm), it discusses achieving the right colour and sound. How and when to use the pedal, and how to spread (or not) those chords.

And finally the concluding programme on Friday, (30 December at 6.45-7.30pm), entitled 'Will the Real Mr Chopin Please Stand Up', looks at the problems of getting to the real Chopin. How much do the right edition and the right instrument matter? And how much of an influence have recordings and past interpreters been?

In addition to the interviews with pianists, each programme - presented by Jeremy Siepmann - will include recording of complete Chopin works by performers past and present.

**Presenter/Jeremy Siepmann, Producer/Gwen Hughes**

**9.25-10.45pm**

### **Kashchey the Deathless**

Continuing this week's celebration of the 150th anniversary of Rimsky-Korsakov's birth, a second chance to hear the British premiere of the Russian composer's one-act fairy-tale opera 'Kashchey the Deathless', given earlier this year at London's Barbican Hall.

London performers are joined by soloists from the Kirov Opera in St Petersburg under the baton of the Kirov's Artistic Director Valery Gergiev, a renowned champion of Rimsky's music.

**Producer/David Gallagher**

**Second airing for  
Rimsky-Korsakov's  
one-act fairy tale  
opera conducted by  
Valery Gergiev.**



BBC RADIO



Jeremy Nicholas takes a behind the scenes look at the pantomime actor's life on the road at Christmas.

8.43-8.58am

**Recess Reading: Murderers and Other Friends**

Over the next five mornings, John Mortimer reads from his recent book, 'Murderers and Other Friends' recalling his eventful life at the Bar.

Reader/John Mortimer, Director/David Benedictus

9.05-10.00am

**One Up, One Down and One to Polish**

One enduring Christmas tradition is the pantomime, that gag-filled romp through a classic fairytale with plenty of audience participation to keep the kids happy. Every town has at least one, and the acting profession scatters far and wide across the length and breadth of the country to bring this most seasonal of entertainments to audiences twice a day.

But while the audience goes home happy, for the cast it's often a different story. More often than not they're in a strange town away from friends and family, living in inhospitable digs and eking out a living on the tiniest of wage packets. At Christmas there are more performances and less chance of being with loved ones. Why on earth do they do it? Just what is the lure of an actor's life?

Jeremy Nicholas attempts to find out, with the help of a wealth of archive material, music and interviews, in this behind the scenes look at an actor's life on the road.

Presenter/Jeremy Nicholas, Producer/Ian Gardhouse

10.02-10.30am FM Only

**Questions of Taste**

New Series

Chairman Chris Kelly and team captains Anthony Worrall Thompson and Oz Clarke prepare to do battle over matters of food and drink in a new series of the foodie quiz, 'Questions of Taste'.

Producer/Richard Wilson

11.02-11.30am

**A Word for the Belly**

As an antidote to Christmas, 'A Word for the Belly' takes an offbeat look at indulgence, excess and denial. It includes William Carlos Williams's poem extolling the sensual pleasures of eating, which contrasts strongly with George Orwell's 'Down and Out in Paris and London'. There's even slightly queasy advice from a belly dancer on how to limber up the stomach.

Producer/Julian Wilkinson, BBC Bristol

11.30am-12noon

**Murder in Mesopotamia**

New Series

The latest in what has become an annual event of Christmas Agatha Christie mysteries is 'Murder in Mesopotamia'. This year it's the turn of master detective Hercule Poirot, played as always by John Moffat. He is joined in the cast by Dorothy Tutin, Richard Todd, Elizabeth Spriggs, Norman Rodway and William Franklyn.

Chris Kelly chairs the food and drink battle.

Offbeat look at excess and denial.

John Moffat alias Hercule Poirot is joined by Elizabeth Spriggs, Dorothy Tutin, William Franklyn and others for a touch of desert sleuthing.

**BBC RADIO**



**Murder in Mesopotamia 11.30am-12noon (continued)**

In Mesopotamia the beautiful wife of a leading archaeologist has been found murdered in her room. The door was locked, the window barred. There is no sign of an intruder and no evidence of a struggle, just a tiny speck of blood by the water jug.

No stranger could have got in or out without being noticed so everyone involved in the archaeological expedition is under suspicion.

Hercule Poirot is untangling a military scandal in Syria. Can his old friends Captain Maitland and Dr Reilly persuade him to make the long trek into the heart of the desert to solve the crime and bring the criminal to justice?

William Franklyn is the expedition leader, Dr Leidner and Dorothy Tutin, his wife Louise. Elizabeth Spriggs is Miss Johnson, Norman Rodway, Dr Reilly and Richard Todd is Captain Maitland.

'Murder in Mesopotamia' has been dramatised in five parts by Michael Bakewell.

**Director/Enyd Williams**

The role of the agency nurse opens this series on stand-ins.

**12.02-12.25pm**

**Second to None: An Extra Pair of Hands**

*New Series*

Sara Parker looks at the role of the agency nurse in the first of a new five-part series about stand-ins - people (or things) who do others' jobs.

The agency nurse is often seen as an extra pair of hands, playing an increasingly essential role in a health service in which permanent staff have been cut back to crisis levels. They can often make the difference between a ward coping or not with their patients.

Sara found some surprising implications, some of them worrying, for the NHS in its reliance on a workforce who are to a large extent outside the control of the hospitals they work in. One example is in the recruitment process itself. Hospitals can run police checks on the nurses they employ directly, whereas agencies cannot - and the hospital must take the agency staff on trust.

**Presenter/Sara Parker, Producer/Sukey Firth**

Second airing for this acclaimed production.

**2.02-4.00pm**

**The Wind in the Willows**

*Repeat Broadcast*

A second chance for the whole family to enjoy Alan Bennett's dramatisation of Kenneth Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows' with Bennett himself as Narrator, Richard Briers as Rat, Nikolas Grace as Toad, Derek Waring as Badger, Adrian Scarborough as Mole, Terence Rigby as Albert the Horse, Leslie Phillips as the Magistrate and Stephen Tompkinson as Weasel Norman.

(William Horwood's continuation of the book, 'The Willows in Winter' read in eight parts by David Suchet, begins on Wednesday, 28 December at 10.15am).

**Director/David Blount**

**BBC RADIO**



Deborah Moggach reads the first of five stories.

Sadie's unusual Christmas.

Dermot Crowley and Catherine Byrne star in this adaptation of James Joyce's story 'The Dead'.

Pianist George Shearing talks to June Knox-Mawer.

4.45-5.00pm

**Family Feelings: Fool For Love**

*New Series*

For Radio 4's Christmas family drama, Deborah Moggach has written five original, unusual and amusing stories and she reads one each day this week, taking a look at those family feelings we often brush under the carpet.

**Reader/Deborah Moggach, Director/Jocelyn Boxall**

6.15-6.30pm

**Christmas in the Pine Woods**

Christmas Day 1921 found Sadie Gammon living in a tent in a commune on 20 acres of Norfolk heathland. Her next door neighbours lived in a hole in the ground. Yet it turned out to be the happiest Christmas Day of Sadie's life. It was the very absence of parties and merrymaking, presents and feasting, that brought out the real love and tenderness from her mother which, after all that had gone before, made it such a special day. Sadie's story is told in 'Christmas in the Pine Woods'.

**Producer/Neil Walker, Revolution Recordings**

7.45-9.15pm

**Distant Music**

'Distant Music' is an adaptation of James Joyce's story 'The Dead'. It is largely concerned with Gabriel and his fears as he waits to make his speech at a Christmas party given by his elderly aunts.

Gabriel and his wife Gretta arrive through the snow to the party traditionally given by Aunts Kate and Julia. Miss Ivors is there, who, as a fervent Nationalist, goads Gabriel about him reviewing English poetry for an English paper and ignoring his own culture. Freddy is there too, even more inebriated than last year and Gabriel becomes increasingly anxious. Overlying all of this is an episode from Gretta's past that still casts a shadow over their life together.

Dermot Crowley is Gabriel and Catherine Byrne is his wife Gretta, with Kate Binchy as Aunt Kate, Margaret Whiting as Aunt Julia and Mark Lambert as Freddy.

**Director/Peter Kavanagh**

11.30-11.59pm

**A Touch of Genius (George Shearing)**

*New Series*

A series of four half hour programmes in which the legendary pianist George Shearing talks about his life and music to June Knox-Mawer.

George Shearing, who was 75 this year, is the only British born jazz pianist to rival in popularity the American keyboard greats. Shearing has never actually seen a piano, as he was born blind - a state which he believes has been a creative influence in his career.

**BBC RADIO**



**A Touch of Genius (George Shearing) 11.30-11.59pm (continued)**

"If I'd been able to read music", he said once, "would I still have my imagination to call on?"

Shearing is a naturalised American. He emigrated to the States in the late Forties, but he comes over to this country to spend summers in his Cotswold cottage.

During the course of this series George Shearing talks to June Knox-Mawer about his life, from his working class upbringing in Battersea, the youngest of nine children, to his days with the Ambrose orchestra and his emigration to the States in 1948. He discusses the formation of his hugely successful Quintet, his collaborations with singers like Nat King Cole and Mel Tormé, and even invitations to play at the White House for three different presidents.

**Presenter/June Knox-Mawer, Producer/Derek Drescher**

**BBC RADIO**



**12.00midnight-7.00am**

**Test Match Special**

Jonathan Agnew and the 'TMS' team - hopefully "refreshed" after the Christmas Day rest day, return to the MCG for the second day's play in England's second Test against Australia. Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Neville Oliver and Peter Baxter join Jonathan in the commentary box, with expert summary of the game from David Gower and Trevor Bailey.

**Presenter/Jonathan Agnew, Producer/Peter Baxter**

**Richard Baker celebrates the lives of leading figures who died this year.**

**9.05-11.05am**

**Brief Lives**

Richard Baker celebrates the lives of personalities who died during 1994.

He remembers sporting stars including motor racing ace Ayrton Senna, Sir Matt Busby and Billy Wright from the world of soccer and ice skater John Curry. From showbiz, the programme looks at the lives of Terry Scott, Roy Castle and Burt Lancaster. Among those from the world of politics to be profiled are John Smith and Richard Nixon.

Richard Baker said: "This will not be a morbid look at death but a celebration of the lives of those people, looking behind the headlines to give an insight into the real person behind the famous name."

**Presenter/Richard Baker, Producer/tbc**

**Ted Harrison explodes a few myths about the naming of Boxing Day.**

**11.05-11.30am**

**Yule Never Believe This!**

Continuing his look at the facts, myths and surprises of the Christmas season, the BBC's former religious affairs correspondent Ted Harrison turns his attention to Boxing Day and Good King Wenceslas.

He considers the origins of Boxing Day - a very English celebration - which some people believe is so named because it is the day when boxes (presents) are supposed to be opened. Others say it originates from the opening of the alms boxes to give money to the poor.

**Presenter, Producer/Ted Harrison**



**BBC RADIO**



**11.30am-6.00pm**

**Sport On Five**

A packed programme of Boxing Day sporting action - introduced by Ian Payne. There's a full football programme in England and Scotland and Radio 5 Live will have news from all the matches. With some games kicking off at noon, there's a Christmas bonus for football fans with two live commentary matches.

There are 10 Boxing Day race meetings, and Peter Bromley, will be at Kempton Park to bring punters live coverage, including commentary of the big race - the King George VI Chase. Rugby league also has a full programme and Ian Payne will also have reports from all eight Stones Bitter Championship matches.

**Presenter/Ian Payne, Producer/TBA**

**7.35-10.00pm**

**The Monday Match**

Eleanor Oldroyd is in the studio to host live coverage from Maine Road, where Manchester City meet Blackburn Rovers in the FA Premiership.

**Presenter/Eleanor Oldroyd, Producer/TBA**

**10.05-11.00pm**

**Island Line**

Tom Morton gives a humorous insight into island life with a mix of features, discussions and interviews with both island-dwellers and those who have left this idyllic existence for life in the fast lane on the mainland.

For this special Christmas programme, Tom will look at the festive celebrations, customs and traditions practised by islanders around Britain. He will also be looking at some of the problems of island dwelling. For instance, just where do they go for their Christmas shopping?

Tom Morton is an island-dweller himself, based in the Shetlands. He currently has his own morning show on BBC Radio Scotland and was 'The Scotsman's' columnist of the year. He has just published his first novel, 'Red Guitars In Heaven'.

**Presenter/Tom Morton, Producer/Carol Haining BBC Radio Scotland**

Tom Morton looks at the festive celebrations, customs and traditions practised by islanders.

**BBC RADIO**



**A diva's musical choices.**

**1.03-2.00pm**

**Lesley Garrett**

British born opera star, Lesley Garrett introduces her personal selection of favourite music, ranging from classics to contemporary, including music with a special seasonal flavour.

Lesley was born in Yorkshire into a musical family. Her grandfather was a professional classical pianist and her mother followed the classical style, whilst her father was a more extrovert performer of lighter music. Her first trip to the opera to see 'The Marriage of Figaro' at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden had such an effect on her that she was determined to pursue a career as a singer.

Lesley went on to win a prestigious competition and obtained a place at the National Opera Studio. Starring roles with Opera North and the Glyndebourne Opera Company soon followed which resulted in an invitation to join the English National Opera. Since then she has made numerous appearances on stage and TV and gained a reputation as being an opera singer for 'the people'.

**Presenter/Lesley Garrett, Producer/Anthony Cherry**

**John Dunn relives his Japanese experience.**

**5.03-7.00pm**

**John Dunn**

The gentle giant of broadcasting, John Dunn, reflects on his Japanese experience tonight when he reviews his trip to the Far East. He broadcast his first programme from Kyoto, which was celebrating its 1200th anniversary. John discovered that the Tea Ceremony, Kabuki Theatre and Geisha girls still remain an important part of the city's way of life.

The second programme followed the route of the Emperor who, on his restoration to power, made Tokyo the nation's capital. There John found out how its inhabitants cope with living in one of the world's busiest cities and how the influence of the western world is fast breaking down many of its long established traditional beliefs and customs.

**Presenter/John Dunn, Producer/Colin Martin**

**Friends recall Kenneth Williams.**

**7.03-8.00pm**

**I Am Your Actual Quality: A Radio Life of Kenneth Williams**

*Repeat Broadcast*

Another chance to hear Russell Davies talking to those who knew Kenneth Williams on and off air - his sister, his London neighbours, as well as showbiz stars like Betty Marsden, Bill Pertwee, Sheila Hancock, and the creator of 'Privates on Parade', Peter Nichols. Also in the programme are rare recordings made by Kenneth for his friends, in which he speaks unguardedly about his life and concerns.

**Presenter/Russell Davies, Producer/Simon Elmes**

**BBC RADIO**



Ken Bruce relives his close encounter with National Music Day.

**8.03-9.00pm**

**Ken Bruce Remembers National Music Day**

Ken recalls some favourite musical encounters from his National Music Day whirlwind tour around the country last June when Radio 2 broadcast 15 hours of 'live' music making. On the day itself, Ken flew the length and breadth of the country in a helicopter dropping in on many of the different musical events taking place. Highlights of Radio 2's coverage included Jools Holland at the Durham Blues Festival, Gloria Hunniford introducing the BBC Big Band at Thorpe Park and 'Crazy For You' stars Ruthie Henshall and Kirby Ward performing a salute to West End musicals.

**Presenter/Ken Bruce, Producer/Graham Pass**

Campbell Burnap on the trail of ideal music to drink to.

**9.03-10.00pm**

**Cocktails For Two**

Campbell Burnap sets off on a musical discovery tour of modern day drinking establishments.

In an attempt to uncover the ideal musical form he finds himself sampling the heady delights of traditional Tavern Music, the robust earthiness of Operatic Brindisi, and the spirited strains associated with Wild West Saloons.

Finally, Campbell investigates the apparently mild but thoroughly intoxicating piano music specifically invented for the cocktail bar by such artists as Carroll Gibbons, Teddy Wilson, Carmen Cavallaro and George Shearing.

**Presenter/Campbell Burnap, Producer/Roy Oakshott**

Martin Kelner's naff Christmas music selection.

**10.03-10.30pm**

**Martin Kelner's Christmas Chokers**

Martin Kelner, Radio Two's self-appointed purveyor of taste and quality, wallows in some truly naff Christmas music.

Titles uncovered include 'Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer' by Elmo and Patsy, Larry Grayson's dreadful disc 'Who's Stuffing Your Turkey this Christmas?', 'My Turkey's Dead, I Found the Brains of Santa Claus (Underneath My Bed)' and 'Daddy's Getting Us Gonks for Christmas'.

Time permitting there may also be room for Derek Jameson's Christmas smash, 'Yes, There Is a Santa Claus'. On the other hand, half an hour is probably as much as most normal people could stand, but there is still the unanswered question of how these records came to be in the Kelner attic?

**Presenter/Martin Kelner, Producer/Phil Hughes**

**BBC RADIO**



Opera North production of two Kipling stories.

**2.55-5.00pm**

**Opera: Baa-Baa Black Sheep**

Michael Berkeley's opera 'Baa-Baa Black Sheep', to a text by David Malouf after Rudyard Kipling, has its first broadcast on Radio 3, simultaneous with its transmission on BBC2. The libretto is a fusion of Kipling's story 'Baa-Baa Black Sheep' and elements of 'The Jungle Book'.

It is performed by Opera North, conducted by Paul Daniel, at the Grand Theatre in Leeds. Punch is played as a child by Malcolm Lorimer, and as a young man by William Dazeley, and Judy is played by Ann Taylor-Morley.

**BBC RADIO**



**Opera: Baa-Baa Black Sheep 2.55-5.00pm (continued)**

Kipling's 'Baa-Baa Black Sheep' appeared in 1888, when the author was 23. More than 40 years were to pass before Kipling could bring himself to admit publicly that the story he had told was his own.

Like the Punch and Judy in the opera, Kipling and his sister Trix were taken to England and farmed out to a retired ship's captain and his fanatical wife. His parents, to quote Charles Carrington, "made no effort to forewarn little Rudyard of his calamity, but slipped away without stirring the children's emotions by any passionate display of affection". Kipling was six, his sister three (in the opera Judy, aged 10, is the elder). He was to remain in what Kipling calls 'The House of Desolation' for five years and three months, Trix for somewhat longer. It marked him for life.

"It's all different now," Punch tells Judy towards the end of the story, "and we are just as much Mother's as if she'd never gone." To which the author adds: "Not altogether, O Punch, for when young lips have drunk deep of the bitter waters of Hate, Suspicion and Despair, all the Love in the world will not wholly take away that knowledge, though it may turn darkened eyes for a while to the light, and teach Faith where no faith was."

Punch in 'Baa-Baa Black Sheep' tries to be murderous but cannot manage it. He is too young. It is the story itself that becomes Kipling's secret or not-so-secret act of vengeance.

Says David Malouf, "What I have done is to endow young Punch with the power he lacks in the original story, the power to effect his own form of 'wild justice', not by murdering his tormentors in fact but in fantasy. I have, that is, empowered his imagination, and in so doing have made use of Kipling's own. What Punch conjures up in fantasy is India, the place where he was at home and happy and powerful, and what he discovers there is the world of 'The Jungle Book'."

**Producer/Peter Tanner**

**BBC RADIO**



**Terry Waite makes an emotional visit to Bush House, home of the World Service and his lifeline during his years of captivity.**

**10.02-10.30am FM Only**

**Terry Waite at the World Service**

For the last few months of Terry Waite's solitary confinement in Beirut he was given a cheap throwaway radio. The BBC World Service provided a lifeline: it was his first contact with the outside world and a link with home. Since his early twenties, Waite has been a faithful listener and supporter of the World Service and, three years after his release, he visits its home on the Strand in London, Bush House. He meets the presenter of 'Outlook', which had broadcast messages for him while he was in captivity, visits the Arabic Service, traces the path of a news item and looks at the infrastructure of a service that broadcasts to the world in 41 languages.

**Presenter/Terry Waite, Producer/Miriam Akhtar, BBC Bristol**

**11.02-11.30am**

**The Forgotten Cowboy**

From sagebrush to silver screen they rode the range, matching the exploits of Wild West legends like Roy Rogers, yet few have heard of them. Bill Pickett, Bose Ikhard, Jesse Stahle, Cleo Hearn, Herb Jeffries - just some of the brave and pioneering men who helped make history. The only difference between them and the likes of Rogers, Jesse Chisholm and Charles Goodnight was that they were black.

**Gavin Esler on the unsung black cowboys who rode the range.**



**BBC RADIO**



Sara Parker on a locum vicar in Liverpool, Mother Jackie.

Dramatisation of Carlo Collodi's original story.

Armando Iannucci sets his sights on a financial guide.

**The Forgotten Cowboy 11.02-11.30am (continued)**

BBC Washington correspondent Gavin Esler heads west to talk to black cowboys, historians, musicians and storytellers to find out what really happened, and how Hollywood has whitewashed history, in this tale of the black cowboys.

**Presenter/Gavin Esler, Producer/Chris Kimber**

**12.02-12.25pm**

**Second to None: The Locum Vicar**

*Part One*

Mother Jackie has been a priest for all of three weeks. She's in Liverpool to take over from Father Peter as he starts his eight-yearly, three month sabbatical - what he calls the equivalent to a 50,000 mile service.

As he packs for his sojourn as Chaplain of Costa del Sol West, a job with "light duties", he prepares himself, Jackie and the congregation for his absence. His biggest worry is whether Jackie will remember to feed the parrot! (Part Two of 'The Locum Vicar' can be heard at 12.02pm tomorrow, December 28th).

**Presenter/Sara Parker, Producer/Sukey Firth**

**2.02-3.30pm**

**Pinocchio**

Another well-loved story provides the play for family listening this afternoon. 'Pinocchio' has been dramatised for radio by Tina Pepler and is closer to the original story by Carlo Collodi than to the Walt Disney Forties cartoon.

Pinocchio, the wooden puppet, is a true trickster who must learn to be honest and good before the Blue Fairy agrees to transform him into a real boy. He must learn to follow his conscience, portrayed in the story by Grillo the cricket. Through a series of severe tests and trials he learns what it takes to live in a world of humans.

Thirteen-year-old Mark Burrows makes his professional debut in the role of Pinocchio and Stephen Moore is Geppetto the toymaker, who carved the puppet and loves him like a son. Christian Rodska plays Grillo the cricket, Charlotte Attenborough is the Blue Fairy, Phil Daniels is Volpino the Fox and Bill Wallis plays four parts.

The music has been specially composed by Peter Howell of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop.

**Director/Michael Earley**

**3.30-4.00pm**

**In Excess**

*New Series*

Armando Iannucci takes some more tentative steps into a world of extremes. In the last series, Armando explored the Nineties obsessions with time management, sex, gadgets and leisure. This time around he has set his sights on four new targets, starting with the Iannucci guide to financial affairs in which he tries to wade through the multitude of confusing money advice.

The other three programmes, which will run daily until Friday, look at ideal homes where Armando gets himself re-designed and re-landscaped; self-improvement and, finally, a way to escape from it all on a monks' retreat.

**Presenter/Armando Iannucci, Producer/Brian King, BBC Bristol**

**BBC RADIO**



**Professor Anthony Clare on the way music works on the mind.**

**7.20-8.00pm**

### **Anthony Clare's Musical Melancholia**

From Mahler to Morrissey, from Leonard Cohen to Country and Western, from the Blues to 'Misty Blue', the popularity of melancholy music is both extensive and enduring.

In this special Christmas programme, Professor Anthony Clare explores the way music works on the mind, the technical tricks composers use to make their melodies appeal to our sense of pathos, and the effect gloomy tunes have on both the listener and the performer.

With the help of conductor Sir Colin Davis, musicologists, performers and psychologists, Dr Clare looks beyond Western culture to the mournful music of the East and Africa. Why is it that the sounds that bring tears to the eyes in Rangoon and Kampala have no emotional impact here, and vice versa?

Packed with musical illustration of all ages and styles, this upbeat look at downbeat music provides a remarkable insight into the way both music and the mind work.

**Presenter/Anthony Clare, Producer/Paul Kobrak**

**BBC RADIO**



**Diana Madill presents the best of this year's 'phone-ins.**

**12.00-7.00am**

### **Test Match Special**

Commentary and coverage from the third day's play in the second Test as England continue their campaign to regain the Ashes. Jonathan Agnew heads the commentary team.

**Presenter/Jonathan Agnew, Producer/Peter Baxter**

**8.35-10.05am**

### **The Magazine: 'Phone-In Competition**

With nearly 200 phone-ins to date, Diana Madill presents the best of Britain's only national daily 'phone-in. Over the past nine months, the 'phone-in has reflected the mood of the nation, giving the public a chance to have their say on such wide-ranging issues as gun laws, video nasties, hospital security, gay weddings, the royals, euthanasia and the decriminalisation of cannabis.

**Presenter/Diana Madill, Producer/Dee Lahiri**

**Adrian Goldberg on the best of the dirty stories of the year.**

**10.05-11.05am**

### **Dirty News Update**

In this special Christmas edition, Adrian Goldberg looks back on 1994 to catch up on stories covered over the past year.

Did the good people of Epping Forest persuade the police to move their helicopter pad or have they been yelling Merry Christmas over the din? Are the Faroe Island seals still there for the tourists, or will they be culled in '95? And following the Royal Commission's report on environmental pollution, has the car become an endangered species?

Plus a reprise of some rants, some of the wilder and wackier environmental stories and an updated eco-fairy tale for the children.

**Presenter/Adrian Goldberg, Producer/Gabi Fisher BBC Pebble Mill**

**BBC RADIO**



Nottingham Forest v  
Norwich, Tottenham v  
Crystal Palace.

**11.05-11.35am**

**Yule Never Believe This!**

Ted Harrison looks at Christmas songs, from carols to Cliff Richard hits. He tells how many of today's favourite carols started off as dances in Tudor times. He also looks at some of the best - and worst - Christmas songs.

**Presenter, Producer/Ted Harrison**

**1.35-5.30pm**

**Sport On Five**

Another holiday afternoon of football and racing - and Ian Payne will have all the news from all the sporting action. Live coverage from the FA Premiership - where Nottingham Forest play Norwich City and Tottenham Hotspur meet Crystal Palace in the London derby match. Peter Bromley will be at Kempton to commentate on five races and there is also live commentary and live coverage of the Coral Welsh National from Chepstow.

**Presenter/Ian Payne, Producer/TBA**

BBC RADIO



Brazilian music  
Inspired by football.

7.03-8.00pm

### Jim Lloyd with Folk on Two

Tonight's (December 28) edition looks back on another busy 12 months for 'Folk on Two' and features some of the personalities who have appeared on the programme during the year.

**Presenter/Jim Lloyd, Producer/Jane Ward, BBC Pebble Mill**

9.03-9.30pm

### Sun, Salsa and Samba

*Last in Series*

Brazil is the final destination in William Marquez's series about the sunny music of Latin America.

Football is not the only famous pastime to come out of Brazil, it's also the most important source of musical style developed from African roots: Samba, Forro, Capoeira - all are complemented with Bossa Nova, ballads and romantic songs.

**Presenter/William Marquez, Producer/Philip Whitaker**

BBC RADIO



Live from Westminster  
Abbey.

10.00am-12.00 noon

### Mid Week Choice

'Mid Week Choice' celebrates the festive season with two special editions.

Susan Sharpe takes the opportunity of the Christmas vacation to play requests from students and young people normally in full time education - in particular from members of the National Youth Orchestra and students at Chetham's specialist Music School in Manchester.

**Producer/Chris de Souza**

4.00-5.15pm

### Procession with Carols for Holy Innocents' Day

Westminster Abbey is the venue for a 'Procession with Carols for Holy Innocents' Day'.

The live broadcast will include the hymns 'Of the Father's Heart Begotten', 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'Unto us is Born a Son'.

**Producer/James Whitbourn**

World premiere of  
Andrew Toovey's piano  
concerto.

7.45-9.25pm

### Young Concert Artists Trust: 10th Anniversary Concert

Chris de Souza introduces the 10th Anniversary Concert of the Young Concert Artists Trust featuring members past and present, and looks at the organisation's achievements over the past decade.

The concert, performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, features the world premiere of Andrew Toovey's 'Concerto for two pianos and Orchestra' with Joanna MacGregor and Andrew West.

It also includes Mozart's 'Sinfonia Concertante for violin & viola, K.364' with Priya Mitchell (violin) and Philip Dukes (viola); Chopin's 'Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise in E Flat' with Anya Alexeyev (piano), and Ibert's 'Concertino da Camera for alto saxophone' with Simon Haram.

**Conductor/Charles Hazlewood, Producer/Jessica Isaacs**



BBC RADIO



Roger Cooper and Ronan Bennett discuss Koestler's 'Darkness at Noon' and 'The American Radical' with Michele Roberts.

10.02-10.30am FM Only

### A Good Read

Both of Michele Roberts's guests have been unjustly imprisoned. Roger Cooper was arrested at gunpoint for alleged espionage whilst on a business trip to Teheran and spent five years in captivity. He has selected a prison classic: Arthur Koestler's 'Darkness at Noon' which was first published in 1940 and helped to draw attention to the true nature of Stalin's regime.

A month after leaving school, Ronan Bennett was mistakenly arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. After spending a year at Long Kesh his conviction was thrown out on appeal. He was re-arrested in 1977 as part of the 'persons unknown' trial and spent 18 months in Brixton prison before he was acquitted. Since then he has campaigned to free the wrongly imprisoned and written novels and screenplays. His choice is 'The American Radical', an encyclopaedia of the often unsung heroes of American democracy over the past 200 years, ranging from Tom Paine and Walt Whitman to Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

**Presenter/Michele Roberts, Producer/Tim Dee, BBC Bristol**

David Suchet reads William Horwood's sequel to Kenneth Grahame's classic.

10.15-10.30am LW Only

### The Willows in Winter

David Suchet reads an eight-part adaptation of William Horwood's sequel to Kenneth Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows'.

Horwood tells the story of what happens to Toad, Rat, Mole and Badger. Toad is far from a reformed character and is still up to his old tricks. His latest infatuation is with aeroplanes and, being Toad, his friends are soon involved in his adventures.

**Reader/David Suchet, Director/Matthew Walters**

John Huntley recalls the maestros, Mathieson, Walton and Britten.

11.02-11.30am

### Scoring for Britain

Film historian John Huntley worked as an assistant to many of the composers working in England in the Forties and Fifties and in 'Scoring for Britain' he recalls these eccentric maestros and how the likes of Muir Mathieson, William Walton and Benjamin Britten ever managed to get a sound onto the screen.

**Producer/Barry Littlechild**

Follow Father Peter's progress on the Costa del Sol.

12.02-12.25pm

### Second to None: The Locum Vicar

Part Two

Sara Parker follows Father Peter's progress in sunny Spain as he arrives with his Spanish phrase book, a wind-up gramophone and collection of 78s - the essential accompaniment to a picnic with a bottle of wine in the Costa del Sol hills. Meanwhile, back on Merseyside, Mother Jackie - a mere one week into her stint - is asked to perform an exorcism.

**Presenter/Sara Parker, Producer/Sukey Firth**

BBC RADIO



Nicholas Le Provost, Nathaniel Parker and Kristin Milward star in this dramatisation of Jules Verne's classic adventure.

2.02-3.30pm

### Journey to the Centre of the Earth

Jules Verne's adventure story begins at Christmas in 1864. The fortunes of Prof Otto Lindenbrock look bleak when, as the result of a duel, he is bequeathed an encoded manuscript. He decodes it and finds it tells of a subterranean journey to the centre of the earth, undertaken by pioneering Iclander, Arne Saknussemm. With the help of Lindenbrock's nephew Axel an expedition is mounted, funded by Rosemarie McNab, a wealthy lady traveller to retrace the journey.

Entering at the icy Snaefells Peak, Lindenbrock's expedition delves not only into the earth's core but into their own innermost being.

Nicholas Le Provost and Nathaniel Parker star as Lindenbrock and his nephew Axel, with Kristin Milward as Rosemarie McNab.

Director/Eoin O'Callaghan

The Brain of Britain and Mastermind winners and runners up contest a new title.

6.30-7.00pm

### Masterbrain

The winner and runner-up of Radio 4's 'Brain of Britain' and TV's 'Mastermind' challenge each other for the title of 'Masterbrain'. Unlike the usual radio format, each contestant chooses a specialist subject for one round's worth of questions. Upholding the honour of radio are Ian MacKenzie, Brain of Britain 1994, and runner-up Jeremy Cotton and doing battle for TV are 'Mastermind' winner George Davidson and runner-up Graham Roe. Robert Robinson asks the questions.

Producer/Richard Edis

BBC RADIO



Belfast 1994 portrayed through the eyes of its residents.

12.00-7.00am

### Test Match Special

Full coverage from the fourth day's play in the second Test between England and Australia. Jonathan Agnew heads the commentary team in Melbourne - David Gower and Trevor Bailey provide the expert analysis.

Presenter/Jonathan Agnew, Producer/Peter Baxter

7.00-9.05am

### The Breakfast Programme

Julian Worricker introduces a new series from Belfast looking at the year in Ulster as seen through the eyes of the local people who have lived through the violence. An ex-terrorist and the business people to the soldiers and children all give their views.

Presenter/Julian Worricker, Producer/David Gordon

Ted Harrison on the pagan origins of Christmas.

11.05-11.35am

### Yule Never Believe This!

Ted Harrison unravels the magic of Christmas, examining how old pagan superstitions have developed into part of our traditional celebrations. He tells how kissing under the mistletoe may originate from the Druids, who believed mistletoe was a fertility symbol.

Presenter, Producer/Ted Harrison

BBC RADIO



Lisa Stewart raised on a diet of blues and country presents her musical selection.

7.35-9.00pm

### Country Club

Singer Lisa Stewart is tonight's (December 29) guest presenter on 'Country Club'.

Reared on a diet of blues and country music in her home state of Mississippi, Lisa's wide musical influences also cover folk, jazz and even opera which she studied at university in Nashville. However, BNA Records spotted her obvious talent for country music and she now divides her time between careers as a recording star and as a TV hostess on the syndicated programme 'Number One Country'.

When asked about her musical choices Lisa says, 'I've studied and sung opera, and I've done jazz, folk and rhythm and blues, and they have all taught me things about my voice, but my first love is country music.' She adds 'it's like when you travel the world a lot - it only makes you more sure of where your home and heart are.'

**Presenter/Lisa Stewart, Producer/Dave Shannon BBC Pebble Mill**

The Gospel train pulls into Tottenham.

9.45-10.30pm

### Gospel Train

*Last in Series*

The 'Gospel Train' arrives in London at the Calvary Church of God in Christ, Tottenham.

Carol Pemberton introduces US female gospel group The Clark Sisters, who spur on the choir and audience for a rousing finale to the current series.

**Presenter/Carol Pemberton, Producer/Michael Wakelin**

BBC RADIO



1.02-6.15pm

### Opera: Gotterdammerung

This year's Ring Cycle at the Bayreuth Festival reaches its climax with 'Gotterdammerung'. Deborah Polaski is Brunnhilde and one of Germany's young, heroic baritones Falk Struckmann is Gunther, and the young tenor Wolfgang Schmidt is Siegfried.

Between the acts, two visitors to this year's festival recall their memories of it: Paul Findlay, Managing Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and Cabinet Minister, Michael Portillo.

**Producer/Clive Bennett**

Iain Burnside's unpredictable look back over the year.

11.30pm-12.30am

### Voices: Pick of the Year

"A little oasis on Radio 3", is how the popular series 'Voices' has been described. In tonight's programme, presenter Iain Burnside selects the best and brightest from 52 editions of the series, with a little help from the listeners.

Highlights have included recitals by the sensational Russian mezzo soprano Olga Borodina, the English soprano Joan Rodgers and the French baritone Francois Le Roux. Tributes to the sopranos Lucia Popp, Suzanne Danco and Elly Amerling; programmes about the contralto and the bass (where Chaliapin rubs shoulders with Lee Marvin) and Iain Burnside's inimitable "themed" mix-your-own compilations of songs crossing every boundary from Medieval to Heavy Metal (where else on radio do you find Schubert and Elvis sharing the same bed?) also feature.

BBC RADIO



BBC RADIO



David Bean ponders why women catch bigger fish than their male counterparts.

Sara Parker turns her attention to the Pantograph engine and the special effects industry.

Three men and the dog set off up the Thames in Stoppard's dramatisation of the Jerome K Jerome classic.

**Voices: Pick of the Year** 11.30pm-12.30am (continued)

Unpredictable, fun, surprising and sometimes even downright outrageous, are just some of the words used to describe 'Voices' over the last year. Iain Burnside's look back over 1994 promises to be all of that and more. The programme is repeated on Friday 30 December at 12 noon.

**Producer/Adam Gatehouse**

11.00-11.30am

### **Miss Ballantine and the Big Fish**

In October 1922 Georgina Ballantine caught a 64lb salmon - a catch which has remained a world record. In 'Miss Ballantine and the Big Fish' David Bean casts around for answers to the question: why do women get consistently bigger catches than men?

Miss Ballantine was a young, slightly built woman, fishing a spinner in the Boat Pool on the Tay when she hooked her trophy. Following a struggle that lasted nearly two hours, the fish was finally landed over half a mile downstream. It is recognised by the British Record Fish Committee as the official record for the species. Two of the other 10 heaviest salmon taken by rod and line in Britain were caught by women. Given the male-dominated image of fishing, this ratio comes to many as a surprise.

In 1990, Wilma Paterson and Professor Peter Behan published a book called 'Salmon and Women' - the result of considerable research. The book's thesis - that women catch better fish than men due to hormonal reasons - provoked a great deal of controversy in the usually genteel world of salmon fishing.

Scientists, researchers and, of course, the fisher-women themselves, give their insights into the phenomenon.

**Presenter/David Bean, Producer/Dave Sheasby, BBC North**

12.02-12.25pm

### **Second to None**

If you break down on Railtrack's East Coast main line, you may - if you're lucky - be rescued by a stand-in engine. Eschewing new-fangled electrics and computers, this "locum-otive" is an old diesel engine - older, in fact, than most of its drivers. When the Pantograph comes down and the modern technology fails, the trusty Thunderbird chugs up the line to the rescue.

Sara Parker also takes a look at the special effects industry, where she comes across a giant hand used in a COI advert to warn against dodging car tax. It's not the long arm of the law - it's actually a piece of stand-in road specially made for the ad.

**Presenter/Sara Parker, Producer/Sukey Firth**

2.02-3.30pm

### **Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)**

Tom Stoppard's dramatisation of Jerome K Jerome's comic classic comes to Radio 4 as part of the family drama season. The three men in question are 'J', George and Harris (not forgetting Montmorency, the dog) and they are played by Alex Jennings, Julian Wadham, Nicholas Le Prevost and Ron Cook as the dog.



BBC RADIO



Jan Fairley's portrait of an actress who simply disappeared.

**Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)** 2.02-3.30pm (continued)

'J', George and Harris need rest and a complete change and decide that a river trip is just the ticket. With the co-operation of several hampers of food and a open boat, the three men (and the dog) set out on a hilarious voyage of mishaps up the Thames.

Director/Hilary Norrish BBC World Service/Radio 4 Production

7.20-8.00pm

**Nancy Cole**

The actress Nancy Cole set out from Austin, Texas one bright day in 1987 leaving a note saying "moving to New Orleans - will be in touch". She hasn't been heard of since, and her bank account remains untouched to this day. Jan Fairley builds up a picture of Nancy from interviews with her family and friends, including Lindsay Kemp, Richard de Marco and Joan Lindgard, and asks what happens to the people left behind when someone disappears from their lives in this way.

Nancy was well-known for her annual appearance at the Edinburgh Festival with her one-woman show 'Gertrude Stein's Gertrude Stein'. An American, she came from an affluent family, but from the late Sixties lived a hand-to-mouth existence amongst the expatriate community in Paris. A striking figure who modelled herself on the artists of the Twenties' salons, she remained in France until a disastrous engagement in the mid-Eighties. After a short spell in London, she returned to America where she travelled from festival to festival until that fateful day in Austin.

Presenter/Jan Fairley, Producer/Fiona McLean

Sue Limb on James Thurber.

8.00-8.45pm

**This is My First Wife: A Hundred Years of James Thurber**

This year saw the centenary of the birth of James Thurber, one of America's best-known comic writers. To celebrate the event, Sue Limb examines his life and work.

With interviews from his circle of friends, including Alistair Cooke and Larry Adler and archival recordings, the programme covers the full range of his work from his best-known gentle humour to the increasingly satirical and pessimistic work of his later years.

Presenter/Sue Limb, Producer/Gareth Edwards

BBC RADIO



12.00-7.00am

**Test Match Special**

Jonathan Agnew, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Neville Oliver and Peter Baxter are back with ball-by-ball commentary from the final day of the second Test between England and Australia. David Gower and Trevor Bailey join them to give their expert opinion.

Presenter/Jonathan Agnew, Producer/Peter Baxter

**BBC RADIO**



Rogan Taylor on Welsh  
International Rugby  
referee Clive Thomas.

11.05-11.35am

**Yule Never Believe This!**

As you recover from the excesses of your Christmas feast, think of the people of Poland. Instead of turkey they eat carp - a close relative of the goldfish. Today Ted Harrison looks at how Christmas is celebrated around the world. He also tells how countries which do not celebrate the festival are becoming more and more involved in Christmas as it gets more commercial.

**Presenter, Producer/Ted Harrison**

8.35-9.00pm

**I Remember You**

Another chance to hear the programme that explores the controversies and successes of sports personalities from days gone by. Rogan Taylor looks at the career of Welsh international rugby referee, Clive Thomas, and the goal-keeper with the sticky fingers - Gary Sprake.

**Presenter/Rogan Taylor, Producer/Fiona Couper**

BBC RADIO



Dennis Quilley and Julia McKenzie star in Royal National Theatre production of Stephen Sondheim's classic musical.

9.16pm-12.00midnight

### **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street**

Denis Quilley and Julia McKenzie star as Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett in this full-length musical production recorded at the Royal National Theatre and broadcast earlier this year on Radio 2.

It's the tale of a half-mad barber who returns home after escaping from an unjust imprisonment, to take vengeance on the judge who sentenced him, ravished his wife and who now plans to marry his daughter.

Some of the Stephen Sondheim lyrics performed by the all star cast include: 'The Ballad of Sweeney Todd', 'The Worst Pies in London', 'Johanna', 'Pretty Women', 'Epiphany', 'A Little Priest', 'By The Sea' and 'Not While I'm Around'.

**Producer/John Langridge**

BBC RADIO



Lela Sisauri presents folk music from Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia.

4.30-5.00pm

### **Traditional Music: Songs of Old Tbilisi**

Before the Russian Revolution, Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, was a town of many faiths and languages - church, mosque and synagogue were all near one another, and the city's music was influenced by Russian romances, as well as by the Arabic-Persian songs of the ashoughs. Some of this lively mixture still survives in present-day Georgia.

Lela Sisauri, herself from Tbilisi, presents folk-music from the multicultural city, painting a fascinating musical picture of life there before the Revolution, particularly at the time of Christmas and New Year's Eve. She plays some of the distinctive songs of urban life and love, as well as a Georgian 'New Year' song, with music from the folk-group 'Soinari' who play duduki flutes and accordions, and a 'Table song' from the Rustavi Men's Choir.

**Producer/John Thornley**

Take a trip round Henry Purcell's vibrant London.

10.45-11.30pm

### **Friday Feature: To Purge Melancholy**

Next year, 1995, marks the 300th anniversary of the death of Henry Purcell.

Starting tonight, (December 30) Radio 3 will broadcast a number of programmes featuring not only the composer himself but also the colourful period in which he lived, from the Restoration of Charles II to the era of William and Mary.

Purcell (1659-95) was born into a London torn by Civil War and shortly to be visited by Plague and Fire. When he died, England was at war with France and ruled by a Dutchman whom many considered a usurper.

This evening's 'Friday Feature' - 'To Purge Melancholy' - lifts the curtain on the vibrant popular culture of Purcell's England when the streets, taverns and coffee houses, the city theatres and country mansions, swarmed with lively, expressive characters whose exploits cry out to us evocatively across the centuries. Whether cavorting on the frozen Thames, ordering replicas of the Queen's drapes, or running ("with their arses bare") through the steets of London, the high-spirited men and women of the time - everyone from Oyster Nan to the royals themselves - found ways of keeping melancholy at bay.

The programme visits surviving parts of Restoration London as well as locations further afield, and includes contributions from (among others): the Pepys Librarian, Richard Luckett; the novelist and biographer of Purcell, Maureen Duffy; and the Curator of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, Simon Thurley.

**Producer/Daniel Snowman**



*A side to the story*

**Sue Margolis on the myth of the Jewish mother.**

**Sara Parker meets stand-in casualty victims.**

**Jane Lapotaire stars as the scheming Miss Slighcarp.**

**9.45-10.00am**

### **Radio World**

Simon Fanshawe continues his scan through the world's airwaves in the second of four programmes. He looks at the cult of aggressive phone-in hosts that started in the US and has since spread throughout the world.

**Presenter/Simon Fanshawe, Producer/Miriam Akhtar, BBC Bristol**

**10.00-10.30am**

**Presenter/Jez Nelson, Producer/Sue Broom**

**11.00-11.30am**

### **Oedipus Schmoedipus**

Miriam Margolyes gave hers a stroke when she mentioned sex, while comedian Dave Schneider gets much of his material from his. Is the Jewish mother really like her stereotype - with the war cry of "Eat, eat!" and chicken soup as weapons? With the help of Miriam, Dave, Vanessa Feltz and others, Sue Margolis investigates the myth, and asks whether she really can mould her children like Matzo balls.

**Presenter/Sue Margolis, Producer/Sally Flatman**

**12.02-12.25pm**

### **Second to None: The Stand-in Victim**

*Last in Series*

It was a still, quiet October night in the West Country - until the peace was shattered by an explosion on a passenger ferry the size of the Marchioness. There were 70 casualties. Rescue services rushed to the scene, taking the injured off by lifeboat and helicopter to Torquay district hospital in a dramatic operation.

Luckily for Radio 4, roving reporter Sara Parker was on hand to record the whole dramatic incident in stereo. Even more luckily, was the fact that no-one was really hurt, as this was a mock-up exercise for the rescue services involving volunteer members of the Casualties Union as stand-in victims. The only actual casualty turned out to be one of the bar staff who stood too near the smoke bomb when it went off, and who got a slightly burned foot as a result.

**Presenter/Sara Parker, Producer/Sukey Firth**

**2.02-3.30pm**

### **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase**

Jane Lapotaire stars as Miss Slighcarp in Eric Pringle's dramatisation of Joan Aiken's novel.

When Sylvia gets to Willoughby Chase and meets her new guardian, the wickedly cruel Miss Slighcarp, she realises that even the wolves outside are safer company. Sylvia and her cousin Bonnie have to use all their wits to come up with a plan to stop Miss Slighcarp's wicked plots to take over Willoughby Chase for her very own.

Abigail Docherty plays Sylvia and Emily Watson, Bonnie with John Rowe as the Narrator and John Turner as Grimshaw.

**Director/Cherry Cookson**



BBC RADIO



11.00-11.25pm

### Year Ending

The 'Week Ending' team, led by regulars Sally Grace, Jeffrey Holland and Toby Longworth take a look back at the events that made the news in 1994 with their favourite sketches from the show.

Producer/Paul Schlesinger

11.25-11.45pm

### Fourth Column

Guest columnists John Peel, Irma Kurtz and Lynne Truss offer their own agendas for the New Year when Alistair Beaton presents 'Fourth Column'.

Presenter/Alistair Beaton, Producer/Malcolm Love, BBC Bristol

BBC RADIO



11.05-11.35am

### Yule Never Believe This!

Ted Harrison pulls his 'Yule Never Believe This!' Christmas cracker in the last of the series when he turns his attention to crackers, cards and Christmas trees.

Most people know that trees became part of the British Christmas thanks to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. But did you know that cards only became popular when the Post Office reduced the cost of postage?

Presenter, Producer/Ted Harrison

Bill Hamilton on the good news of the year.

9.05-10.00pm

### The Good News Year

Bill Hamilton looks on the bright side of life as he remembers some of the most heart-warming good news stories featured on 'Now the Good News' this year.

Presenter/Bill Hamilton, Producer/TBC

Peter Preston, Piers Morgan and Rachel Compey with their favourite news stories of the year.

10.05-10.30pm

### Stop Press

Tune in for the 'Stop Press Review of the Year' with John Diamond in the last programme of 1994.

In a year when newspapers have set the agenda so often Guardian editor Peter Preston, Piers Morgan, editor of the News of the World and Rachael Compey, editor of the Exeter Express & Star will be selecting their two favourite newspaper stories of the year - one from their own newspaper and one from any other paper - to discuss their impact.

Presenter/John Diamond, Producers/Andy Denwood, Iain Croft

BBC RADIO



Radio 1's resident satirists, Collins and Maconie on 1994 and 1995.

1.00-2.00pm

### The Best of the Hit Parade

Andrew Collins and Stuart Maconie look back on the highs and lows that made up the rock 'n' roll year in 1994 with the help of guest critics John Aizlewood of Q Magazine, and Mary Anne Hobbs from Loaded.

Radio 1 FM's resident satirists also pick out their favourite moments from the first series of 'The Hit Parade' which was aired earlier this year. Highlights include the legendary 'Unpeeled' sessions, in which the bands played live, acoustic - and naked, and the 'Interrogation Game', where 'Nice Cop' Stuart and 'Nasty Cop' Andrew squeezed secrets and scandal from their guests.

The best tunes from Arrested Development, Bobby Womack, Erasure and Therapy? get another airing, and Damon Albarn from Blur, Peter Dinklage from D:Ream and Jarvis Cocker from Pulp come under the interview spotlight once more. Andrew, Stuart and their guests also take a look ahead to 1995 and try and predict what will be hot and happening - and naff and not-with-it - next year.

**Presenters/Andrew Collins and Stuart Maconie, Producer/Emma Lyne for Wise Buddah**

BBC RADIO



Joe Longthorne performs with a little help from Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Jerry Lewis, Sammy Davis Jr, Matt Monroe and Shirley Bassey to name but a few.

5.03-6.00pm

### Joe Longthorne

Singer and impressionist Joe Longthorne was born in Hull into a showbusiness family; his father was with ENSA and his mother was a Carroll Levis "discovery".

As both parents were travelling show people, it was only a matter of time before young Joe started entertaining for himself - he entered his first talent contest at the age of four. Reflecting on his first memories Joe says: "When I was six I came first in another talent contest and my prize was a huge toy motor car, I think I decided then and there that showbusiness and entertaining was for me if the rewards were anything like that!"

Joe's career took off after an appearance on a TV talent show 'Search for a Star' in 1981 and since then he has won the Variety Club's 'Most Promising Artist of the Year' award and enjoyed a reputation as one of the most popular entertainers in the country. Joe's TV career was boosted when offered his own ITV show, which preceded a record-breaking summer of sell out concerts in the UK and America and success on record with three best-selling platinum disc winning albums.

Tonight's show features Joe's entire repertoire of songs and impressions including Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Jerry Lewis, Sammy Davis Jr, Matt Monroe and a duet between Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey!

**Producer/Graham Pass**

Domingo on his mother, his wife and his voice.

6.03-7.00pm

### Placido Domingo

Gloria Hunniford caught up with Placido Domingo during a recent flying visit he made to London.

In a candid interview, the legendary tenor reveals how the recent death of his mother greatly affected him, and talks about the wonderful influence of his wife on his career, where he relies on her knowledge and wisdom. Placido refers to his voice as his 'instrument' and talks about it lives with you every day and how even being emotional has an effect on "the voice".

BBC RADIO



Cliff Richard with his greatest hits and numbers from his new musical 'Heathcliff'.

**Placido Domingo** 6.03-7.00pm (continued)

Looking ahead to the future Placido plans to concentrate more and more on conducting when his singing career comes to a close and in a predication hopes that there'll be another Three Tenors concert for the World Cup in four years time.

The interview, conducted with great warmth and candour is illustrated with music showing the versatility and quality of this outstanding tenor.

**Presenter/Gloria Hunniford, Producer/Anthony Cherry**

7.33-9.30pm

**Cliff Richard**

In a New Year's Eve special concert Cliff Richard performs many of his greatest hits, including songs from his new musical 'Heathcliff'.

After 36 years in "the business" Cliff's hits have hardly stopped! Inspired by Elvis in the Fifties he formed the Drifters in 1957 who were signed by EMI in 1958. Their first release 'Move It' reached the number two spot in the charts.

Cliff reorganised the Drifters and brought in Hank Marvin, Bruce Welch, Jet Harris and Tony Meehan but an American tour led to the name change, as another 'Drifters' were of course already well established recording artists in the States - and so The Shadows were born.

From then until now, the hits have hardly stopped: 'Living Doll', 'Summer Holiday', 'Voice in The Wilderness', 'The Young Ones', 'Please Don't Tease Me' through the Sixties and into the Seventies; 'Devil Woman', 'Miss You Nights' and the 1979 number one 'We Don't Talk Anymore'. In the Eighties he scored hits with 'Carrie', 'A Little In Love', 'Daddy's Home', 'Suddenly', 'She Means Nothing To Me', 'Mistletoe and Wine' and 'Just Don't Have The Heart'. The concert was recorded in Sheffield on December 16.

**Producer/Graham Pass**

BBC RADIO



Lord Harewood on Maria Callas.

9.00-10.30am

**Record Review: Critics Choice**

Anthony Burton hosts a lively round-the-table discussion of the best and most interesting of 1994's discs.

The panel of critics are: Rodney Milnes, John Warrack, Tess Knighton and Richard Osborne.

**Producer/Clive Portbury**

3.00-5.00pm

**Vintage Years with David Mellor**

*Repeat Broadcast*

This week 'Vintage Years' celebrates the artistry of Maria Callas, giving listeners another chance to hear David Mellor's interview with the Queen's cousin, the Earl of Harewood, which was first broadcast earlier this year.

Lord Harewood was director of both the English National Opera and the Royal Opera House (as well as the Leeds and Edinburgh Festivals) and he knew Callas personally. He talks about the opera star from first hearing her sing in Italy just after the war when she was an unknown young Greek soprano, to lending her his office as a dressing room when she was the leading diva of her time.

BBC RADIO



James Conlon  
conducts Peter Grimes  
live from the Met.

**Vintage Years with David Mellor 3.00-5.00pm (continued)**

In the interview he analyses the strengths - and weaknesses - of Callas's inimitable singing and acting in a selection of classic recordings from Italian and German operas. He talks candidly about the driven side of her nature which led to her infatuation with Aristotle Onassis and to the early deterioration of her voice. But he also pays tribute to her kindness, intelligence and wit and reveals the little-known woman behind the legend.

**Producer/Nick Morgan**

**6.30-9.55pm**

**Live from the Met: Peter Grimes**

Benjamin Britten's first opera, 'Peter Grimes' is today's live broadcast from the New York Metropolitan Opera House.

Conducted by James Conlon, the production features Peter Rolfe Johnson as Peter Grimes, the proud, self-willed misfit living on the East Coast of England whose uncompromising independence and unwillingness to accept help bring him to disaster.

The idea for the opera, which proved an instant success for the young composer, came to Britten in America in 1941 after he read an article by E M Forster on the subject of Crabbe, the poet of England and more particularly of East Anglia. Soon afterwards Britten was commissioned to write an opera by the conductor, Koussevitzky, and he began work on the libretto immediately upon his return to England in 1942, with Montague Slater.

Freely adapted from Crabbe's story in his long poem, 'The Borough', the opera is set in Aldeburgh, where Crabbe was born and where Britten moved to shortly after the premiere of 'Peter Grimes'. The main character is, however, somewhat softened from the uncompromising sadist of Crabbe's poem.

**Producer/Clive Bennett**

BBC RADIO



Nick Fisher's seasonal  
ghost story centres  
around an unusual pair  
of glasses.

**12.15-12.25pm**

**Just a Minute**

Nicholas Parsons takes his accustomed place as Chairman of 'Just a Minute', trying to ensure that his unruly colleagues, including Peter Jones, Derek Nimmo, Clement Freud, Jenny Eclair and Paul Merton, speak for just a minute without deviation, hesitation or repetition.

**Producer/Ann Jobson**

**2.30-3.45pm**

**Losing Contact (A Seasonal Ghost Story)**

It's Christmas, a jolly time of year. Richard is on his way home from work, walking through the quieter backstreets of London's Soho. He passes an optician's he hasn't seen before, E A P Optical. Aware that he needs new glasses, he goes in and is persuaded to buy contact lenses.

He returns the next day to collect them and his life is changed for ever in a strange and chilling way.

'Losing Contact' has been written for radio by Nick Fisher, whose play 'Playing With Dracula' was heard last week on Radio 4 and whose serial 'Terminus' recently filled the late-night slot.

The cast had not been confirmed as Radio Press Information went to press.

**Director/Celia de Wolff**



BBC RADIO



Robert Robinson  
meets the "compers".

6.50-7.20pm

### Ad Lib

New Series

With the whole country erupting in National Lottery fever, Robert Robinson meets the professionals - the 'compers' who scour the shops for competition entry forms and even take courses on how to improve their tiebreaker technique, in the first of a new eight-part series of 'Ad Lib'.

They're out to win, win, win at all cost, so where does that leave the rest of us who only enter the odd contest? What are companies really looking for from that tie-breaking slogan? Robert gets a few tips from the experts for whom entering competitions has almost become a profession.

**Presenter/Robert Robinson, Producer/Penelope Gibbs**

Bernard Holley stars in  
Compton McKenzie's  
glorious comedy about  
whisky.

7.50-9.20pm

### Saturday Night Theatre - Whisky Galore

A fitting subject for Hogmanay, Compton's McKenzie's glorious comedy about whisky and the inhabitants of the fictitious Hebridean islands of Todaidh Beag and Todaidh Mhor has been dramatised by Hector MacMillan.

It is 1943 and the inhabitants of the two Todaidhs are suffering great privations; there has not been a drop of whisky for at least three weeks. In a dense fog the SS Cabinet Minister runs aground without loss of life but with a very welcome cargo.

Bernard Holley plays Old/Young Fred and Dolina MacLennan his sweetheart Peggy Macroon.

**Director/Hamish Wilson**

BBC RADIO



Rugby and the Darts  
World Championship.

1.05-6.06pm

### Sport on Five

Ian Payne has an afternoon of top sporting action which includes a full football league programme in England and Scotland while in rugby union Neath take on Cardiff in the Heineken League.

'Sport on Five' will have the latest from Purfleet which is staging the darts World Championship. Ian Payne will also be looking forward to the third Test between Australia and England which starts at midnight.

**Presenter/Ian Payne, Producer/Graeme Reid Davies**

The future prospects of  
Imran Khan, Salman  
Rushdie, Benazir  
Bhutto and Keith Vaz.

9.05-9.30pm

### Asian Perspective's New Year's Eve

What do the stars predict for next year for the likes of Imran Khan, Salman Rushdie, Benazir Bhutto and Keith Vaz? Three leading Asian astrologers will reveal all on 'The Asian Perspective' this New Year's evening.

Find out if Imran Khan will finally settle down and tie the knot next year and the chances of Labour MP Keith Vaz becoming a minister if there is an election next year.

**Presenter/Mohit Dutta, Producer/Dil Neilyar**

**BBC RADIO**



**Nigel Wrench on last  
year from a gay and  
lesbian perspective.**

**9.35-10.00pm**

**Out This Year**

For lesbians and gay men 1994 meant 25 years of gay pride. But as Gay Pride celebrated its quarter of a century the political battles continued as Parliament fell short on full equality with an age of consent for gay men reduced to 18 and not 16 as they had campaigned for.

Lesbian parenting attracted the media's attention when a court granted custody to a woman and her female partner. And as the year draws to a close the Church of England is still embroiled in debate about homosexuality following the controversial appointment of the Bishop of Durham.

In this special New Year edition of 'Out This Week', Nigel Wrench looks back, with the help of some of the people making the lesbian and gay news, over a distinct year.

**Presenter/Nigel Wrench, Producer/David Cook**

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